



SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2023

A NOTE FROM PASTOR CLAIRE



Fall – to lose the old, to leave its proper place. These are some of the many dictionary definitions of “fall”. What’s crazy is that these definitions are for fall like “I fell down” not fall the season, yet how appropriate the definition is.

I love fall!!! The color change, the weather change, the smell change... It’s about change. But to change means that something must go.

As I sit here looking out at the summer landscape, I can imagine the changes that are to come: Leaves falling, beautiful colorful flowers giving way to brown. The trees that have vibrant colors will be empty, nothing left but the branches. What I find amazing is that, while bare, the trees still stand. The branches still reach out and upward. There is beauty in the strength of those branches.

This is also a picture of what Jesus does in our lives. We go through all kinds of seasons: Some are seasons of hard times, some seasons of loneliness, some seasons of loss or other struggles, such

as financial hardships. And these seasons change us. We have seasons that are bright and beautiful and rich in life. Then we have seasons that feel barren. But through all those seasons God is a companion along the way. And while the leaves fade, and the branches are barren, grace remains steady, strong and ever-present.

One of my favorite books is a book written by Philip Yancey called *What’s So Amazing About Grace?* In it he says:

During a British conference on comparative religions, experts from around the world debated what, if any, belief was unique to the Christian faith. They began eliminating possibilities. Incarnation? Other religions had different versions of gods appearing in human form. Resurrection?

Again, other religions had accounts of return from death. The debate went on for some time until C. S. Lewis wandered into the room. “What’s the rumpus about?” he asked, and heard in reply that his colleagues were discussing Christianity’s unique contribution among world religions. Lewis responded, “Oh, that’s easy. It’s grace.”

After some discussion, the conferees had to agree. The notion of God’s love coming to us free of charge, no strings attached, seems to go against every instinct of

humanity. The Buddhist eight-fold path, the Hindu doctrine of karma, the Jewish covenant, and the Muslim code of law — each of these offers a way to earn approval. Only Christianity dares to make God’s love unconditional.

Aware of our inbuilt resistance to grace, Jesus talked about it often. He described a world suffused with God’s grace: where the sun shines on people good and bad; where birds gather seeds gratis, neither plowing nor harvesting to earn them; where untended wildflowers burst into bloom on the rocky hillsides. Like a visitor from a foreign country who notices what the natives overlook, Jesus saw grace everywhere. Yet he never analyzed or defined grace, and almost never used the word. Instead, he communicated grace through stories we know as parables.

This fall, we will explore more of the parables and we will be reminded week in and week out that God’s grace truly **IS** Amazing.

I hope you will join us, either in church Sundays at 10am or online, and be reminded that you matter, you are deeply loved, and that God’s grace is relentless!

See you in church,

PASTOR CLAIRE

IN THIS ISSUE

- BASIC Youth Alamosa and Nassau Mission Trips
- Celebrating 10 years of being a Reconciling Congregation
- Summer music guests
- Welcoming Jeff Dixon, our new Music Director
- Wesley Homes Updates



FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS

BY LINDA PATTEN (HANDBELL DIRECTOR)

It was a dark and stormy night. Bells could be heard ringing through the thick fog that surrounded the towering church steeple. Then, there was a scream...

I took a literature class a thousand years ago and the one thing that has stuck with me through all these many years is that you have to grab your reader with the first sentence. Did it work?

As handbell choir director, I am responsible for choosing music, taking that music to the choir, and bringing the black notes printed on a white page to life. The best outcome for each piece we ring for you is that it touches you in some small way. While we may not have words to our music when we ring, I hope you can hear an outpouring of love through our music.

I would like to share some thoughts about ringing from three members of the bell choir.

Linda Morris has been ringing for 36 years. Yes, 36 years! While she may have thought that just listening to bells ring was wonderful, when asked to join the bell choir, well, she literally jumped at the chance.

Needless to say, Linda is still jumping for joy ringing in our choir. When asked about why she has stayed a dedicated ding-a-ling all these years, Linda shared that the people in our choir bring so much to her life. Fun, fellowship, and a sense of self-worth. Linda also shared (and I'm blushing here) that our fearless leader, (ummm—that would be me!) makes it a great experience!! Awww... From one Linda to another, thanks!

Edy-Kay Ward has been ringing in our choir for over ten years. Originally, Edy-Kay did not even realize that she wanted to be part

of the bell choir! GASP!!! Don't worry Edy-Kay, that happens all the time!

There she was, sitting in church one Sunday, listening to the bells play for service when suddenly—not even knowing that her life was about to change forever—Valerie Matthews (the director before me) came up to Edy-Kay and said, "You know how to play the piano and read music so we need you to play bells! We have an open spot, so I'll see you at bell rehearsal!" GULP! Try as she might, using that pesky "work" excuse and telling Valerie that perhaps not, the sun came out and it was revealed that bell choir rehearsal actually took place *after* Edy-Kay's work hours. How wonderful was that?! And that's how it happens, people: the Lord works in mysterious ways! Edy-Kay was recruited!

She is now so thankful Valerie was so insistent! Edy-Kay shared that she loves being part of this wonderful group, joining old friends and making new ones. We have such fun laughing at ourselves (and each other) and yet we are able to be serious and encourage each other to do our best. Edy-Kay likes the challenge of learning new music and it feels good to be successful when it goes well (and, it always goes well, right?!). Again, people, here we go... Edy-Kay Shared that Linda Patten (that's me) is a fabulous director and she has learned all our individual quirks and is especially talented to lead us as a group in spite of them. Aww... Thanks for the kind words, Edy-Kay!

Sandy Rabenhorst has been ringing for almost three years. She was a willing—yes, willing—volunteer who stepped forward when the bell choir needed new members. Sandy thought it sounded like something that would be new and fun. And guess what? She was right!

Sandy has been taking on all musical challenges with grace and even having a good bit o' fun. As her director, I thank her for all she has brought to our choir. Did I mention that I appointed Sandy the President of the Linda Patten Fan Club!? Sandy has found out that life can be unintentionally exciting! Sandy shared that while she had never been part of any sort of musical group, surprisingly, ringing in the bell choir has turned out to be amazing and heartwarming. How wonderful is that!?

And a final thought: I asked my ringers what it means to them to ring for you, the congregation of Heart of Longmont, and here are their answers.

Looking up as we ring and seeing the happy, smiling faces of friends and congregation is very fulfilling.

Ringling for each service still makes me nervous but I love being able share music for God. I feel like I can add a small part for His Glory.

Sacred music has always touched me deeply. I hope the bell choir music touches people in ways that words sometimes can't.

Thanks to all my ringers and to you for supporting our ministry!



WORSHIPFUL MOMENTS

Special thanks to the many talented individuals and groups who shared the gift of music during worship service this summer!



LONGS PEAK CHORUS



SKIP & GAYN



KEVIN LATTU



GOSPEL EXPRESSIONS



WELD COUNTY RAMBLERS



JENNA MOORE



JOYFUL NOISE CHILDREN'S CHOIR



HOL HANDBELL CHOIR

FOR THE LOVE OF A HORSE

There are some tantalizing clues as to why human beings and horses can share a close connection and the nature of the sense of healing and well-being that occurs when we work with and spend time with our equine friends.

According to researchers at HeartMath Institute (a nonprofit organization), the heart has an electromagnetic field that extends beyond the body. This is true of all organisms, not just human beings. This electromagnetic field can be measured with a magnetometer. The field radiating from a human heart can extend up to 3 meters (9.8 feet) from the body, and that of a horse can

extend five times that distance.

Horses were also found to have a “coherent” heart rate pattern. A coherent heart rate pattern is a measure of well-being and is consistent with positive emotional states, such as calm and joy.

The many benefits human beings can enjoy while interacting with horses, including lower blood pressure and heart rate, decreased stress and anxiety, and feelings of connection, empowerment, and confidence might be explained by the interaction of a horse's electromagnetic field and coherent heart pattern with a human being's. This

might also be a reason why horses respond and give feedback to handlers and riders so quickly, and are able to mirror the emotions of a rider or handler.

This close and special connection between human beings and equines has been common knowledge for centuries, if not since the very first domestication of horses. This is why horses are a popular therapy animal.

Thank you to Pastor Claire and Marlen Steward for co-hosting the For The Love of a Horse events this summer and sharing your knowledge about these magnificent creatures with folks of all ages!



WELCOME TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY!

On August 27, 2023, we welcomed Charles Gary Turner to our church family. Welcome, Charles! We're so glad you and your family are here!



WELCOME, JEFF DIXON!

HEART OF LONGMONT WELCOMES NEW MUSIC DIRECTOR



Jeff Dixon is a choral director and mental health professional who has directed and sung choral music in sacred spaces for the past thirteen years. His past positions include Director of Music at Father Dyer United Methodist Church in Breckenridge; Unitarian Universalist Church of Concord, New Hampshire; and most recently at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church in Boulder. He received his M.M. in Choral Conducting from CU Boulder

under the direction of Dr. Greg Gentry and Dr. Andrea Ramsey. Jeff has performed with various musical ensembles, including the St. John's Cathedral Choir, Ars Nova Singers, Summit Choral Society, Manchester Choral Society (New Hampshire), Hans Sachs Chor (Nürnberg, Germany), Opera Classica Europa (Wiesbaden, German) Opera Colorado, Opera Fort Collins, and Anima Chamber Ensemble.

Jeff did graduate studies in Mental Health Counseling at Regis University and works full-time as vocational counselor in a Denver-based community mental health center. He is an active member in the Church Music Association of America (CMAA), the Arts | Religion | Culture organization (ARC), the American Choral Director's Association (ACDA) and the

Colorado Counseling Association (CCA). Jeff lives in Denver with his wife, Kristina, and two year-old son, Ender.

Jeff makes his debut as Music Director at Heart of Longmont on October 1!



SUPPORT FOR MAUI

Wildfires raged across Hawai'i's Maui island this August, devastating local communities. At the time of this writing, there are reported 115 deaths and nearly 1000 people still unaccounted for. Thousands of people have lost their homes and have been displaced in the deadliest disaster to hit Hawai'i since a tsunami in 1960, and the deadliest US wildfire since 1918.

For those who want to contribute to efforts to help and support Maui's communities and relief and rebuilding efforts, there are a number of ways to do so.

UMCOR was awarded [an emergency grant to the California-Pacific Annual Conference](#), which includes the Hawaiian UMC, to provide resources and support to relief efforts. [You can donate to this effort online on UMCOR's website.](#)

[Hawai'i Magazine published a list of organizations assisting in relief](#), including the Maui Mutual Aide Fund, a local effort run by volunteers who support vulnerable residents, including the elderly, those with physical disabilities, renters, and individuals without insurance.

The fires destroyed the 101-year-old historic Lahaina United Methodist Church (pictured at right). Every church member is safe, but most lost their homes. Pastor John Crewe's focus is ensuring everyone has a safe place to stay, and is committed not only to rebuilding the church but the Lahaina community as well. You can [read more about the Lahaina UMC on Braodview.org](#) and [support the Lahaina UMC directly via their website.](#)

Native Hawaiians have been especially devastated in this disaster. [The fires took not only their homes, but destroyed the Na 'Aikane O Maui Cultural Center](#), which preserved traditional art and artifacts and helped native families fight for rights to their ancestral lands. There is grief over what was lost, [but also much concern in the Native Hawaiian community that their history and culture will be erased in the efforts to rebuild.](#) Indigenous peoples are one of the most vulnerable communities in disasters like these.

Do not forget to seek and lift up indigenous voices and perspectives in your efforts to help in relief and rebuilding efforts.



Lahaina United Methodist Church after the fire that hit Lahaina. (Photo: Lahaina United Methodist Church/Facebook)



Lahaina United Methodist Church in 2021. (Photo: Lahaina United Methodist Church/Facebook)

HOL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS FOR THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

BY EDY-KAY WARD, FOUNDATION FUND CHAIR

Congratulations to the students receiving scholarships from Heart of Longmont this year! We wish you the best in your studies.

Foundation Fund Scholarship Recipients

Brayden Tate

Brayden is a recent graduate of Longmont High School where he was a member of Future Business Leaders of America and the Longmont High School Business Program. He will be attending Colorado State University in order to focus on Marketing. Brayden wishes to earn a Real Estate License while concurrently pursuing a License in Appraisal. He would like to be an agent and appraiser in the northern Colorado area and hopes to help put people into their forever homes.

Natalie Yoder

Natalie graduated from Mead High School in May and she will be attending Colorado State University. In high school she played the



flute in band and with the Longmont Youth Symphony. She was also the copy and design editor for the school newspaper. Natalie will be deciding between a Chemistry degree or a degree in Interior Design. As a chemist she would like to investigate research, then perhaps go into teaching and if she chooses interior design she would like to become an architect.

Margret Patterson Scholarship Recipients

Toby Yoder

Toby will be a senior at Colorado State University and he continues to pursue a degree in Psychology. He expects to be involved in some internships and explore other offered opportunities. After graduating Toby will likely take some time off to work before deciding on grad school or what careers he would like to pursue. Toby also plays in a band that has achieved a solid degree of local success.

Owen Roberts

Owen will be a junior at the University of Colorado, Boulder and he continues his studies in Anthropology and Japanese. He has also enjoyed Archaeology and fieldwork and would like to focus more on that as he hones in on his career. Toby worked as a Tutor Support Assistant for the Athletic Department as well as worked for the CU Museum of Natural History.

HOLY LAND

Have you imagined walking the same places Jesus walked, exploring the settings and locations of some of your favorite stories from the Bible? Is visiting the Holy Land on your bucket list? If you answered "yes" to either of those questions, this may be the opportunity you've been looking for.

A wonderful group of people has been discussing and planning a trip and plans have been solidified for a special Holy Land visit in 2024. The trip is hosted by Educational Opportunities and is scheduled for February 20 to March 1, 2024. The trip is a "Journey Through the Bible" with the educational theme of Jesus: His Life, His Times, His Land, His Hebrew Faith. The trip encompasses many locations, such as Jericho, Qumran, Bethlehem, the Shepherds' Field, Caesarea, Mount Carmel, Herodion, Tel Megiddo, Galilee, the Mount of Beatitudes, the Church of the Fish and the Loaves in Tabgha, the Chapel of the Primacy, Magdala, Tel Dan, Caesarea Philippi, Golan Heights, Bethsaida, Cana, Nazareth, Samaria, Jacob's Well, Mount Eba, Mount Gerizim, Jerusalem, Mount of Olives, the Garden of Gethsemane, and the Upper Room.

If you're interested in joining the amazing group who have already signed up for what is sure to be a wonderful and exciting journey, or if you have questions about the trip, contact [Pastor Claire or Tricia Grafelman](#).

The deadline for signing up is December 7.



UWF NEWS

GARAGE SALE SUCCESS

The bi-annual All Church Garage Sale was another success, netting over \$2800. Thank you to all who donated, helped set up and take down, as well as purchase items and breakfast burritos! Special thanks to Gloria Hinz for spearheading this year's event. United Women in Faith always appreciates your continued support

CIRCLES MEETING AGAIN

United Women in Faith circles are actively meeting again after the summer. There are four Circles to choose from. [Contact the church office for more information!](#)

FAITH AND REASON ADULT MINISTRY



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

The Faith and Reason study group will begin a new study on October 9. The new study is based on *A New Playlist: Hearing Jesus in a Noisy World* by Jacob Armstrong. In this study, you'll discover how to cut through the distractions of life to hear God more clearly. You'll learn that saying "no" to the demands of the world is often the best "yes."

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.

The Adventurers are continuing the Podcast Ponderings series of discussions that they started this summer. The podcasts have covered a range of topics, including connection, compassion, different perspectives on spirituality, and disability justice within the church.

If you're interested in joining the Adventurers, [please contact Tricia Grafelman](#).



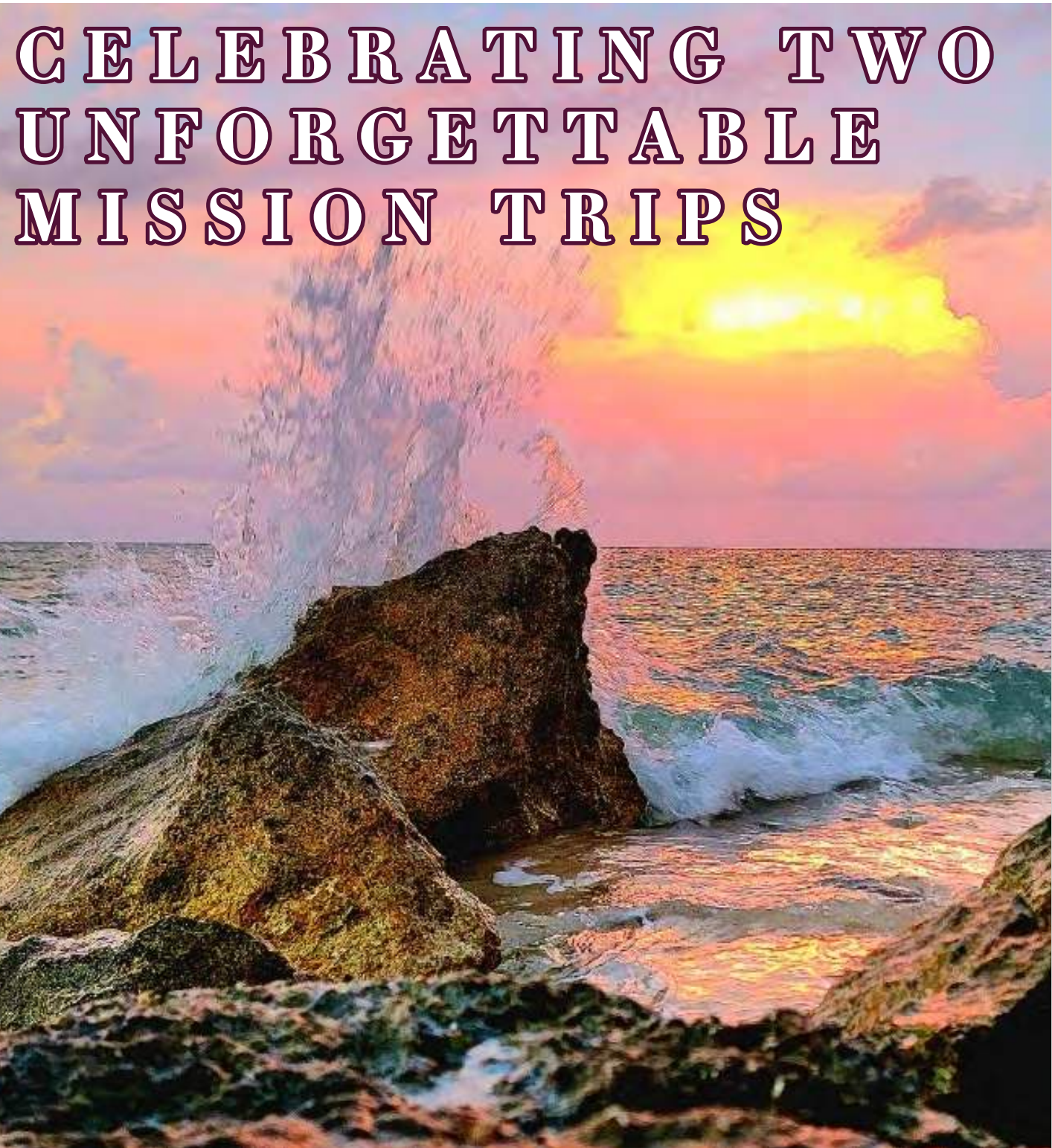
WAYS TO SERVE GOD WHILE YOU TRAVEL

Do you like to travel? Are you planning to travel after retirement? Are you also interested in finding ways to serve God in the world while you travel?

The Adventurer's Adult Ministry group will be hosting a special guest speaker Max Marble from NOMADS Mission Volunteers on Sunday, October 22.

NOMADS (Nomads On a Mission Active in Divine Service) are a volunteer organization who provide volunteer labor for Methodist organizations. NOMADS demonstrate God's love through their work and listening to those with and for whom they work. The kind of work NOMADS do includes new construction, remodeling, repairs, maintenance, cleaning, flooring, painting, electrical, drywall, sewing, and more for churches, children's homes, camps, colleges, outreach missions and disaster rebuilding. Learn more about NOMADS on their website at <https://www.methodistnomads.org/>

Join the Adventurers October 22 at 8:45am to learn more about using an RV and your skills to see the country and connect with other United Methodists serving God by serving others in need.



CELEBRATING TWO UNFORGETTABLE MISSION TRIPS

We are thrilled to share the remarkable experiences and heartwarming moments from our recent youth mission trips to Alamosa, CO, and Nassau, Bahamas. These journeys have been a testament to the power of community, compassion, and the incredible impact that a group of dedicated individuals can have on the lives of others, guided by the love of God.

Alamosa Adventure: Bonds Forged and Hearts Touched
Our Middle School Mission Trip to Alamosa, CO, led by Brant and Emily, was an inspiring journey of selfless service and companionship, woven together by the threads of faith. With nine enthusiastic youth by our side, we partnered with Christian Community Service Projects to uplift the life of a

local woman. Over two days, we rolled up our sleeves and transformed her yard, fixing gutters, reorganizing wood piles, and staining her deck. Beyond the physical work, the most significant impact we had was offering her the gift of companionship, as we believe that God's love flows through the connections we make. Her heartwarming smiles and stories reminded us of the profound



difference that kindness and understanding can make. Our youth found joy in both our work and in each other's company, fostering strong bonds while enjoying the playground and local hot springs. Even a medical emergency couldn't dampen our spirits, as we were thankful that everything turned out well, recognizing God's protective hand over us.



Nassau's Waves of Change: Building, Bonding, and Cultivating Connections
Our High School Mission Trip to Nassau, Bahamas, was an exploration of cultures, connection, and giving back, guided by the divine call to love and serve. Brant, Emily, and church member Paul Lloyd led seven high school youth and two BASIC alumni on this transformative journey. For some, it was their first flight, their first glimpse of the ocean. Partnering with Praying Pelicans Ministries, we organized a vibrant Vacation Bible School for local children at the New Hope Mission Baptist Church, primarily comprised of Haitian immigrants. Our hands also helped to build a schoolroom house connected to the church, leaving behind a tangible mark of our dedication.

Evenings were filled with ocean swims and heartfelt connections, reminding us of God's vast creation and the unity that comes from His divine plan. This experience opened our



The trip was so fun! I had the best time and I really bonded with everyone. We played so many games and I loved helping the lady, and she was very kind.

Avery Howard

The Bahamas was a very important experience to me because I was able to see how other people live outside of the US and I was able to help them. It was also very humbling because I was able to see how people can have so little and still be so happy.

Ethan Shipp

I really enjoyed not worrying about what time it was, or what we were doing next. It felt very freeing to just live in the moment. We were able to enjoy each other and this amazing opportunity.

Charlotte Farrenkopf

I really enjoyed building new relationships with the kids at the church and learning from all of their experiences.

Kameron Sam

I really enjoyed how we all got closer, and all the relationships we created with the kids.

Talia Martinez

I enjoyed hanging out with all of the youth.

Abby Landers



eyes to the beauty of diversity and the shared humanity that unites us all.

Sharing Our Journey: Join Us for the Shareholders Luncheon
We invite you to a heartwarming gathering where we will share stories, memories, reflections, and lots of pictures from these life-changing trips. Our Shareholders Luncheon will take place on Sunday,



September 17, at 11:30 am in Wesley Hall. If you've purchased a share from our youth, mark your calendars, and consider joining us. Tickets will also be available for purchase after church services at \$25 each.

Continued Support for Ongoing Impact
Our youth program flourishes because of the unwavering support from our congregation, a testament to God's grace working through each one of you. We look ahead to an exciting school year filled with impactful programs. Our parent informational meeting is scheduled for September 10. For more details, [please reach out to Emily via email.](#)

As we reflect on these missions, we extend our deepest gratitude for your continued encouragement and generosity. Together, we are making a tangible difference in the world, one act of kindness at a time. Let's continue this journey of growth, compassion, and connection, anchored in our faith.





COURTYARD
Campout

KIDS CORNER

A summer of fun is ending, but fall can be exciting, too!

Joyful Noise Children's Choir

We are excited for children's choir rehearsals to start again, from 9:30 am to 10:00 am in the Chapel. Children and youth of all ages are invited to share their gifts and join us in making music together. There will be one last "Pick Up Choir" on August 27 and regular Sunday rehearsals will be back starting on September 10.

Sunday Children's Programming

Each Sunday during service, the Heart of Longmont invites children to sing songs, explore the Bible, and learn about God and creation in a fun, safe, and developmentally appropriate way. From 10:00 am to 11:00 am each Sunday, infant and toddler care is available in the nursery, and children's church is available in the Library for pre-K through 6th grade.



Library Time for Wild Plum

Starting the week of September 5, Wild Plum students are returning to their regular school year. This year, Heart of Longmont is providing Library Time for the five classes in our building.

Wednesday and Friday mornings between 9:00 AM and 10:00 AM each week during the school year, volunteers will read a book to the class in our church library. The two preschool classes will be allowed to check out a book from our library for the week after the reading. This is an excellent way to help the kids strengthen their language skills and connect with storytelling and literature!

We need readers! Do you want to share your time reading to the Wild Plum kids? Sign up in the Gallery or let Lynn Greenhalge know you are interested and your availability.



PICNIC
In the Park



ACTS4LOVE SUPPORTS FAMILIES

Two Acts4Love Stories

It was a day like any other when a city of Longmont case worker and a young woman walked into my office.

The case worker and I have established a relationship and she knows of our Acts4Love ministry and knows she can come to Heart of Longmont for help when needed. This time was like so many others. A young single mother trying to make ends meet in a community where housing has become unattainable, out of so many peoples reach, with a long wait list for affordable housing.

This young woman was working so hard—two jobs in addition to caring for her children well. She was so close to being offered a home she could afford—just two more months—but that was still a long time to wait.

We were able to help fill the gap from the Acts4Love fund. Her gratitude was expressed through tears, relief, and a great big hug (I am a hugger!). To know she was seen, that her life mattered and she was valued meant as much as the financial assistance we provided.

Because of your generosity through Acts4Love, her burdens were a bit lighter, and she left with a smile.

Thank you for your generous spirits.

Pastor Claire
Heart of Longmont

The Heart of Longmont has helped our Wild Plum families tremendously throughout the years.

Heart of Longmont has been able to provide financial help for rent and other necessities. They have provided our families with hats and gloves for wintertime, and "adopted" families for the holidays, helping provide them with gifts and goodies. Through the Chef Hearty program, they also provide our families nutrition education as well as meal kits to create healthy meals at home. They have also provided various donations of clothing, furniture, and household supplies for our families in need. They have helped our families with special needs, such as small repairs needed in their households.

We appreciate everything you do. Thank you!

Norma Valdez
Wild Plum Center



COMPASSION OFFERING

SEPTEMBER
CROP WALK

OCTOBER
CHEF HEARTY

September's compassion offering supports the annual Boulder County CROP Walk.

October's compassion offering supports our Chef Hearty meal kit program for Wild Plum families.

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!



Income is higher than 2022 by 9.9%, primarily related to several significant contributions in January/February/July from longtime members. Expenses are higher than 2022 by 14.5% with the biggest increases in utilities, payroll, conference apportionment (due to higher income), and the leadership training.

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 40% less than the budgeted loss through July. In setting

the budget for 2023, we identified several opportunities to mitigate the budgeted loss.

As noted in the last issue of The Heart Newsletter, 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 July, we still have no commitment from the denomination. Accordingly, our focus

is on 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.

	YTD 2023	YTD 2022
Income	\$ 229,835	\$ 209,177
Expenses	\$ 265,177	\$ 231,595
Income greater than (less than) expenses (deficit)	\$ (35,342)	\$ (22,418)



Did you know that 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 August 1, 2023, rates for fixed-rate investments range from 4.44% for a 12-month term on deposits of \$1,000 to \$4,999 up to 3.09% 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/>.



AN UPDATE FROM THE FACILITIES MANAGEMENT TEAM

Your Facility Management Team has been active on a number of fronts over the past couple months. A couple highlights include completion of the installation of a new rooftop air conditioning unit over the education wing, some final adjustments to the HVAC over the sanctuary, and researching available grants to fund green projects.

As is always the case, the Team has also been called to address various maintenance issues. Sometimes these issues are relatively easy (inexpensive) to address. However, as you would expect with a 60+ year old facility, sometimes the issues are more complicated and more expensive. A short list of priority issues currently being addressed includes:

- Looking at replacing thermostats.
- The air conditioning unit for Wesley Hall is not functioning; the current quote to fix the issues is \$18,000; what can we do to get through September and focus on a long term solution for the spring?
- As a result of the inspection of our boiler system, there were a couple findings that need to be addressed to get a clean inspection certificate.
- A temporary fix for the Choir entrance door did not work out; the team is looking at door replacement options

Patience is the key as the Team works to find cost effective solutions to address these issues.

Upcoming Projects

Starting in January, there have been discussions around an updating and remodeling of the bathrooms near Wesley Hall. Catherine Murphy, Edy-Kay Ward, and Jean Malchow have agreed to lead the design efforts. Once they know the supply chain timetable, a project plan will be developed for demolition work and installation of new fixtures, painting, tiling, etc. The project will require congregational assistance when the work is scheduled. Watch for updates in the weekly Pulse.

The Fall Workday is scheduled for October 13 and October 14. Taking input from June's Mission Work Week, we are spreading the work over a Friday and Saturday to hopefully fit more people's schedules. Exact times and a schedule of work to be completed will be published in the weekly Pulse.

Increased Presence of People Experiencing Homelessness

Over the past several months, there has been an increase in the number of people who are experiencing homelessness who are using the Church property. This has given rise to waste handling issues, safety concerns for our congregation, Wild Plum, and others who use our facility.

Various Team members have been doing routine checks to encourage people to leave our premises and seek assistance through H.O.P.E. and other agencies. The Team has

engaged in discussions with Longmont Police and the Night Watch Commander to request additional assistance with monitoring. Needless to say the efforts to date have yielded little effect. The Team are aware of the issues and are trying to find an appropriate course of action that aligns with our Christian values. At the same time, the Team are working to provide a safe environment for members and the community organizations using the church.

Thank You

We would like to extend special thank yous to:

- Karl Scott, Peg and Butch Howard for lawn care.
- Karl Scott and Jean Malchow for cleaning the Miracle Window, pane by "pain", in preparation for the next phase of preservation.
- Roger and Gloria Hinz for ensuring there is soap in the bathrooms.

Please say thank you to these people and if you see someone filling one of our facility needs, tell them we see them and thank them for their care of the church.

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

MIRACLE WINDOW REPAIRS UPDATE

The outside of the Miracle Window has been cleaned, old paint scraped from offending places, and trim repainted where repairs have been done. It took about 40 hours to clean the outside of the stained glass. The next step is to request quotes from glass companies to remove the old plexiglass and replace it with laminated glass.

Thank you to John Murphy for the scaffolding to make this job safer.

Thank you to Jean Malchow and Karl Scott for putting in the time and elbow grease.



Jean Malchow seated on the scaffolding provided by John Murphy, cleaning the miracle window.



A section of glass from the Miracle Window. The middle has been scraped clean, but the two sides are still incredibly dirty!



Looking down on a section of the window before it is cleaned. Look at the buildup of dirt and mud!

HOL'S MISSION TO REDUCE GUN VIOLENCE

As of July 1, 2023, there have been 376 mass shootings in the U.S. 22,957 gun violence deaths of which 12,804 are suicides. Of children (ages birth to 11) 153 have been killed and 818 teens (12 to 17 years old). Gun violence has become a pervasive occurrence in the U.S. News articles citing gun violence occur with frequency in cities across the country.

Stepping forward to take action, the Heart of Longmont, along with the United Church of Christ, hosted a free handgun safe event on June 24, 2023. Several people from HOL greeted the people who showed up to claim a free safe. Others explained and demonstrated programming of the safes.

In total 406 safety devices were given away, including 139 lock boxes for safe storage of hand guns in cars, 167 home safes and 100 cable locks.

The next event for gun safety will be a firearm buyback in Ft. Collins. At that event individuals can turn in unwanted firearms and receive a gift card in exchange.

This mission is an opportunity for the congregation to serve to save lives and meet people where they are in our community.



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY BUILD DAY THIS OCTOBER

There will be a Habitat for Humanity Build Day on Saturday, October 28, from 8 am to 4pm.

There are only ten slots available this time so be sure to sign up soon! We would love to see you there!

Sign up [by clicking here](#) or use the QR code below. Please contact [Tricia Grafelman](#) if you have any questions.



OUTDOOR LEARNING CENTER IMPROVES

Eleven volunteers showed up bright and early on the morning July 11 and leveled sand for the Outdoor Learning Center sandbox. The sand filled the area between brightly colored tires. The sandbox is novel and larger than typical sandboxes and will offer hours of exploratory play for the Wild Plum infants and toddlers.



A few days later Loren Tonsing and his team from Mountain View Welding cut down the basketball pole and hoop on the Outdoor Learning Site and in its place installed the umbrella canopy from the previous Wild Plum playground. The team measured multiple times, checked leveling, polished the tube to remove sharp edges and polished the joint when the umbrella canopy was installed.

Hopefully by this edition of The Heart, Custom Fence will have completed the core drilling of holes and installation of both the vinyl and wrought iron fencing. The wrought iron fence will border the perimeter of the Outdoor Learning Center. The vinyl fence will be around the infant area.

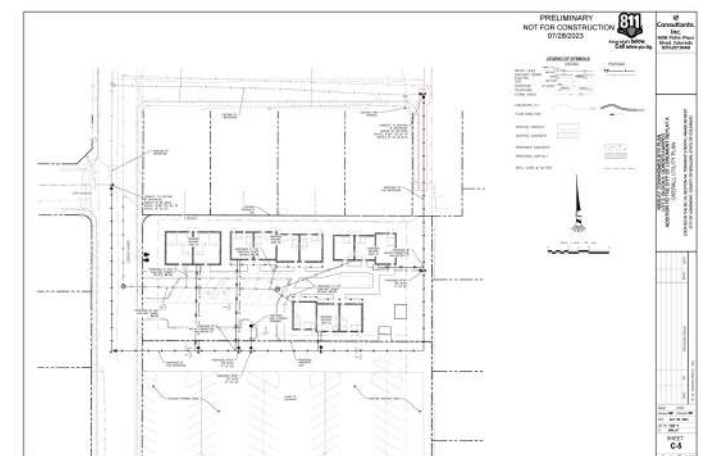


The Outdoor Learning Center is progressing nicely due to the diligent oversight by Jean Malchow.

When we started this process about a year ago, The Inn Between tried to prepare us for the long road ahead to complete the Wesley Homes development. While we had some appreciation for the complexity of the project, many on our team now have an even greater appreciation for all that goes into a project like this. Things like, a Multi-Modal Transportation Plan, a Master Utility Plan, a Fire Flow table, a Grading Plan, a Tree Appraisal, the Final Landscape Plan, and a Photometric Plan, to name a few elements of the site application package.

The team (a Senior Planner with Tetra Tech, the architect, the designer, the contractor, the surveyors, The Inn Between, legal counsel, etc.) are in the final stages of completing the Minor Subdivision Plat and Site Plan applications for Wesley Homes. The team is working hard to submit these documents to the City by August 31. Then the documents will go to a thorough review by the various City of Longmont departments (planning, Fire, etc.) over the next four to six months. At the completion of their review, the team will be expected to respond to comments and questions before the City will move to a final acceptance of the plans. Needless to say, it has been a learning experience. While you may not see much physical progress, the team has done a lot. This site plan drawing is just one of over 100 pages in the submittal. It took many hours and much effort to get this ready for submittal.

If you have any questions about the project feel free to reach out to Rod or Joan Edmonds, Clint Schahrer, Jean Malchow or Tricia Grafelman.



CELEBRATING 10 YEARS AS A RECONCILING CONGREGATION

On November 12, we will celebrate 10 years as a reconciling congregation.

Over these years, there have been many efforts to embrace the LGBTQ+ community including annual participation in Pride month activities, discussions around the impact of wording in our Book of Discipline, and hosting guest speakers. This year alone, we

- Introduced the use of pronouns in our services, with Leadership Council, and in our communications (email and text)
- Reaffirmed our commitment to Reconciling Ministries Network
- Hosted a transgender choir in June

Earlier this year, we engaged in discussions with Court VonLindern (Mountain Sky Conference Leadership Development and Community Engagement—Designer for NextGen and Inclusiveness Ministries) to discuss whether we are a “reconciled” church or still “reconciling”.

The responses from our leadership and congregation suggest we are not all at the same point in our journey towards reconciliation. It is obvious that there are still many questions about what it means to be reconciling and what it means to be an ally for our brothers and sisters in the LGBTQ+ community.

Over the next several weeks you will see invitations highlighting opportunities to learn about being an ally (Allyship 101 in September and Embodied Allyship in November), an At the Table event facilitated by Bryn Long from Out Boulder County on October 8, and a special celebration on December 3 with Bishop Karen Oliveto.

We hope you will participate in the trainings and discussions as we live into our commitment to be a reconciling congregation and to put more of God’s love into the world.

ROD EDMONDS

TRAINING TO BE ALLIES TO THE LGTBQAI+ COMMUNITY

BY JOAN EDMONDS

Ten years ago we voted and approved becoming a reconciling congregation. At that time we declared our church to be open and accepting to LGBTQ+ individuals.

Many events have occurred since then. Many churches have split from the United Methodist conference. Many states have enacted numerous laws restricting and denying the rights of LGBTQ+ folks. As a marginalized group, these individuals have been pushed even further to the margins of society.

Simply being open and accepting is not enough. We are called to embrace and love all; seeing all individuals for who they are, not trying to shape them to fit our expectations.

What can we do to gain a better understanding of these issues? Participate in Allyship Training.

The first training, Beyond Welcome: Engaging in Inclusive and Affirming Ministry



For LGBTQ+, will be September 7 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM via Zoom.

Designer of NexGen Inclusiveness Ministries, Court VanLindern, will lead this two-hour training. It is designed to provide volunteers and leaders in ministry with basic knowledge for supporting and affirming LGBTQ+ people.

Topics to be covered include:

- LGBTQ+ youth mental health
- Difference between gender identity and sexual orientation
- Use of affirming language
- Use of loving correction and calling others in

[Click here to register for this training, or contact the church office for registration information.](#)

The second training, Embodied Allyship, will be offered in four one-hour sessions. Training sessions will be on November 7, 14, 21 and 28 from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM via Zoom. A description of topics to be covered will be posted at a later date.

If you are confused, unsure, wanting more information, or desiring a deeper connection for understanding, save these dates and register. All we are called to do is love!

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER AT LONGMONT PRIDE FESTIVAL

BY JOAN EDMONDS



Colorful rainbow hues lent a festive air to the 2023 Longmont Pride Festival. On July 7 from 4 PM to 8 PM, Heart of Longmont volunteers staffed a booth to meet and greet event goers.

In his book *Reclaiming Church*, J.J. Warren

says, “We are wonderfully made. We are brushstrokes in God’s universal masterpiece, and we are very good.”

God’s brushstrokes were vividly displayed during the festive Pridefest and it was all goodness. People of all ages enjoyed music and food while talking to vendors and organizations who had booths. An inflatable bounce house and slide delighted the very young.

At the HOL booth, folks had a chance to make beaded keychains and bracelets and learn about the Heart of Longmont United Methodist Church and what our mission for putting God’s love into the world looks like.



At Pridefest, we lived out our Christian doctrine to make our community a place where God’s love is known by all; to see LGBTQIA+ individuals and accept them for who they are without judgment.

**GOD IS LOVE, AND THOSE WHO ABIDE
IN LOVE ABIDE IN GOD,
AND GOD ABIDES IN THEM.**

1 JOHN 4:6

BEYOND WELCOME ALLYSHIP TRAINING

Beyond Welcome: Engaging in Inclusive & Affirming Ministry for LGBTQ+ People

September 7
6:00pm-8:00pm MT
via Zoom

Designer of NextGen Inclusiveness Ministries Court VonLindern and Heart of Longmont invite you to attend **Beyond Welcome**.

This 2-hour long training is designed to provide volunteers and leaders in ministry with basic knowledge for supporting and affirming LGBTQ+ people in their communities.

This training will take place on September 7th @ 6:00pm-8:00pm MT via Zoom. [Click here](#)

[to register or contact the church office for registration information.](#)

Contact [Rev. Claire McNulty Drewes](#) or [Court VonLindern](#) with any questions.

Topics covered include:

- LGBTQ+ youth mental health
- Difference between gender identity & sexual orientation
- Use of affirming language
- Use of loving correction and calling others in

Please note: **this training is required for staff to attend.**

Others are encouraged to attend this training in preparation for an upcoming 4-week



immersive workshop on Embodied Allyship. This upcoming workshop will take place November 7-28, 6:30pm -7:30pm MT.

More information will be made available in the coming weeks.

AT THE TABLE

Some of the most talked about topics today are transgender people, gender affirming care, transgender athletes, drag queens and the politicization of this group of folks. If you have been curious about what's said about LGBTQ+ people (and what do all these letters represent?), we would invite you to attend an At The Table Conversation starting, Sunday, October 8.

Pastor Claire will sit down with guest storyteller Bryn Long, President of the Board of Directors of Out Boulder County, and a former attendee of HOL. Bryn will

share his story and his knowledge as a member of the LGBTQ community. This is an opportunity to learn about gender identity, sexual orientation, pronouns, and how to be an ally to the LGBTQ+ folks in our church and community.

If you would like to learn more in a safe setting with the ability to ask questions, then this is your opportunity!

Look for more information about Bryn Long's visit and luncheon Q&A in the weekly Pulse.

WHY DO PRONOUNS MATTER?



In the same way that using someone's correct name is a sign of respect, using someone's correct personal pronouns is also a way to show respect and care for that person. Using each other's pronouns, and asking each other for our pronouns, also helps us create safer and more inclusive spaces for transgender, nonbinary, intersex, two-spirit, and gender nonconforming people in our ministries.

Using the wrong pronouns for someone, intentionally or unintentionally, can communicate that we do not respect that person or their experience and identity, and can cause a great deal of harm (even if it wasn't intended).

Using someone's correct pronouns is also a form of suicide prevention, especially for transgender and nonbinary youth. The Trevor Project found in their 2021 National Survey on LGBTQ Mental Health that using a transgender or nonbinary youth's chosen name and pronouns can reduce their risk of suicide by 50%. This risk continues to go down for every context in which a youth's chosen name and pronouns are used.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOL THIS FALL?



Hymn Selecting Party

Do you love singing? Would you like to play a role in shaping our worship service on Sundays? Join Pastor Claire on Tuesday, September 5 from 5pm—6:30pm with hymnals in hand to help pick hymns and music for each Sunday's service. Pastor Claire will provide the weekly sermon and scriptures, and YOU will help shape the morning's worship experience! Pizza will be provided, just bring yourselves and your positive ideas for singing & worship!

Sunday Funday All Church Picnic

The all church picnic will be at the North Pavilion of Collyer Park (600 Collyer Street, Longmont) on Sunday, September 10, right after service from 11am to 2pm. Face painting and henna will be available as well as yard games and an ice cream truck. Invite your friends and neighbors and come celebrate the beginning of our new year! Bring a camp chair and side dish to share. Grilled protein will be provided by the church as well as iced tea, lemonade and water to drink.

HOL members: Please wear your Heart of Longmont shirts!



Soul Singers

Attention anyone who likes to sing! The SOUL SINGERS are going to start

up again for the new 2023-2024 season soon, and we are—as always—eagerly looking for more singers. No audition, no special skills required, and no need to worry if you have to miss a rehearsal or a Sunday. We sing only easy and spirited

Chef Hearty Meal Kit Building

The Chef Hearty program has been able to provide healthy meal kits to each of our Wild Plum families for the past two years, and Chef Hearty builds will begin again in September! Join us after the service on September 17 to help put the ingredients of a healthy meal together in Chef Hearty kits for our Wild Plum families. Many hands make light work, so come join us!



Suppers for 6

Get to know fellow members of our church and small gatherings over food and good discussions! Six people will be assigned to a group and each will take turns hosting the group for a meal at their home. Your group can decide how best to provide the meal, whether pot luck style or another style that works for everyone. If this sounds fun to you, sign up in the gallery!



Coffee with the Pastor

Interested in Heart of Longmont and our faith? Spend some

time with Pastor Claire on Sunday, October 15, after service learning more about our Methodist denomination and our church.

Gratitude Campaign and Celebration Sunday

This year's Gratitude Campaign will begin on October 15. The theme this year is "I Love To Tell The Story". The campaign runs through Celebration Sunday, November 12. On that day, we will have a good, old fashioned Methodist potluck to celebrate in fellowship together after worship. Look for more information in the



2nd Annual Fall Festival

Join us for a wonderful evening of connection around good food, good friends, petting horses and dogs, yard games, and singing around the campfire at Pastor Claire's farm on October 21, 5pm to 8pm.

Join Heart of Longmont

The Christian faith was never intended to be a solo journey. The first followers of Jesus came together for teaching, meals, prayers, and more (Acts 2:42). At Heart of Longmont we believe all matter and belong. If you would like to formally join our church family, we invite you to participate in the taking of the membership vows on October 22 during worship service at 10am, online or in person. If you have any questions, please let Pastor Claire know.

CROP Hunger Walk

The prolonged war in Ukraine, on top of the pandemic and other disasters is causing a global food crisis. Millions are on the brink of famine. The CROP Hunger Walk and the funds we raise will feed the hungry through CWS. When you join this movement, donate and raise funds, you will provide life-saving support like emergency food along with the seeds, tools and programs that will help families feed themselves in the future.

Join the Boulder County CROP Hunger Walk on October 22 at CENTRALongmont (402 Kimbark Street). [For more information, visit the Boulder County CROP Hunger Walk website.](#)



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

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 will begin meeting again in the fall. Dinners will be needed for 12-18 youth at 5:00 PM 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.

UWF HOLIDAY FAIR COMING SOON!

It's that time again! The Heart's United Women in Faith will be holding their major fundraiser for 2023—commonly referred to as Holiday Fair—on November 4!

Local vendors will share their handmade crafts, food items, one-of-a-kind gifts and home decor. UWF will sell homemade jellies and jams, candy, pastries, and pies. The Treasure Trove of upscale holiday and household items will have something for everyone!

And, of course, there will be a luncheon of pulled pork sandwiches, coleslaw, chips, and a slice of homemade pie!

Mark your calendars and join us on Saturday, November 4 from 9 AM to 2 PM at Heart of Longmont.

We are currently accepting donations for our Treasure Trove and welcome your gently used items. We also are still accepting vendors to participate in the event. [Contact Catherine Murphy if you are interested or have questions!](#)

Keep watching for more information as the we get closer to November. As always, The Heart's UWF thanks you for your continued support! Know that all monies will be used to support UWF Missions locally, nationally, and worldwide.



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!

NEXT ISSUE

- Heart of Longmont for the Holidays!



IN THIS WORLD YOU WILL HAVE
TROUBLE. BUT TAKE HEART! I HAVE
OVERCOME THE WORLD.

JOHN 16:33

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)

[@heartoflongmont](https://twitter.com/heartoflongmont)

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

For free and accessible local Longmont news, visit:

LONGMONT LEADER.com

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

Heart of Longmont
350 11th Ave
Longmont, CO 80501
303-776-3523
office@heartoflongmont.org

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.



BOULDER COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

GUN SAFE GIVEAWAY EVENT

The District Attorney's Office will be distributing **FREE** gun safes and gun locks to Boulder County residents. Through state grant funding and in collaboration with our community partners, our office is excited to encourage and provide for safe gun storage.



Boulder County Sheriff's Office Parking Lot
5600 Flatiron Parkway
Boulder, CO 80301



Saturday, September 16, 2023
11:00AM-1:00PM



st John's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
welcoming and inclusive of all



COLORADO
Office of Gun Violence
Prevention
Department of Public Health & Environment



**DID YOU
KNOW?**

Under Colorado law, firearms must be responsibly and securely stored when they are not in use to prevent access by juveniles and other unauthorized users.



Find out about gun violence prevention efforts at the
Boulder County District Attorney's Office:
<https://bouldercounty.gov/district-attorney/>

