



JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2024

## NOTE FROM PASTOR



Well, we made it to 2024. What a year of loss, change, and growth 2023 has been. So, first I invite you to join me in a big collective breath to usher in the new year.

Do you have new year routines in your life? Resolutions? Manifestations? White boarding? Or just more of the same? For many years, we had a ritual in our family where we would each choose something or somewhere new that we would try in the new year. Some years it was a place we would want to visit, or an experience we may want to have. One year, my son Wynn proclaimed that his choice was to go to Africa. When Joel and I broke the news that going to Africa was a bit out of reach, he quickly exclaimed that visiting North Dakota would do in its place. To this day, we laugh as we retell that story.

Another new year's tradition we have is to eat oyster stew on New Year's Day as a family and share our intentions for the year. Both are practices I cherish. They both require me to pause and ask questions about where I see myself and where I hope to go. It leaves me longing, hoping, for a happy new year.

There's an old Sufi myth that sheds light upon our longing for a Happy New Year. According to the Sufi myth, a certain Sultan owned everything a man could wish for and still he did not know the purpose of life. The answer to three questions made his life difficult:

1. What should I do?
2. With which people should I do the things God asks me to do?
3. When should I do it?

The Sultan asked the advice of all kinds of wise people, and then he was told that there was a Chishti dervish, who lived far away, and who might give him a satisfactory answer. The Sultan immediately left and after a journey of several weeks he met the dervish. The dervish was cultivating his own land. He was a simple man, but no simpleton, as he was reciting a Persian quatrain over and over again: There is a work beyond knowledge, realize that, go! Do not work to get jewels, be the mine, go! The heart is a temporary abode, leave it, and come! The soul is the final abode, realize that, go!

The Sultan was however not interested in Persian poems and put his three questions to the dervish. The dervish did not answer him and continued with his work. The Sultan became angry and said: "Don't you know who I am? I am the Sultan of Sultans." But this, too, made no impression and the dervish continued doing what he was doing.

A heavily wounded man suddenly appeared, and he dropped to the ground in front of the dervish. The dervish said to the Sultan: "Help me to carry this man to my place!"

"I'll help you," the Sultan said, "but will you answer my questions afterwards?"

"Later!" the dervish said and together they brought the wounded man to the hut of the dervish and took care of him.

"And now I'd like to receive the answers to my questions," the Sultan said.

"You can return to your palace," the dervish said, "because you have already received the answers to your questions. As to what to do, you should do what comes to you on your path. As to with whom you should do it, the answer is with those who are present. And as for the

when to do it, you should do it the moment it takes place".

It has been said that at the end of our lives, we don't remember days, or weeks, or years; what we remember at the end of our lives are moments. New Year's Day will be much like any other day: a day filled with the realities of life, full of the ordinary stuff that makes up each and every day. Indeed, every day is a new year, a fresh start, a new beginning, filled with the potential of all sorts of moments. Happiness seems to lie in knowing how to greet the moments that come to us. What should we do? With whom should we do it? When should we do it?

As each moment comes to you may you do what needs doing with what comes to you on your path. May you do what needs doing with those who are there with you. May you do what is called for in the moment it takes place. In this we will find the Happy New Year we desire for one another. Being fully present to the moments that come to us, seeing the potential of a fresh start, the hope of a new beginning, the dream of peace, the power of new birth. Happy New Year!

- PASTOR CLAIRE





## IN THIS ISSUE

- Happy New Year!
- Heart of Longmont Updates
- Thank you for a marvelous Christmas and Advent season!
- January and February events
- Lenten Season plans

## HAPPY RETIREMENT, CAROL!

This December we wished our office manager Carol Barnett a happy retirement and a fond farewell. After four years with Heart of Longmont, Carol is ready to embark on new adventures.

Thank you, Carol, for all your hard work and for sharing your talents and shining personality with us. We all hope you enjoy your well-earned and much deserved retirement.



## WELCOME ABOARD, VIRGINIA!

We are excited to welcome our new Office Manager, Virginia Clingan, to our church family and staff.

Virginia is the new Admin for Heart of LongmontUMC, she also serves as Admin for Lafayette First United Methodist Church and also Louisville United Methodist Church.

She came to Colorado after owning her own business for 20 years in New Mexico. She enjoys serving behind the scenes, working with a team to get the job done and loves spending time with her son outdoors in our beautiful state!

Virginia will be taking the office helm on January 9, 2023. Stop by the church office when Virginia is there to say hello and welcome her to our church staff! (See the panel at right for new office hours.)



Virginia and her son.

## NEW OFFICE HOURS

With our change in staff will come a change in office hours. Please note our new office schedule:

MONDAY: Office closed

TUESDAY: 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

WEDNESDAY: Office closed

THURSDAY: 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

FRIDAY: 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

You can contact Virginia at her email:

HOLOFFICE@heartoflongmont.org

Please welcome Virginia when you see her!

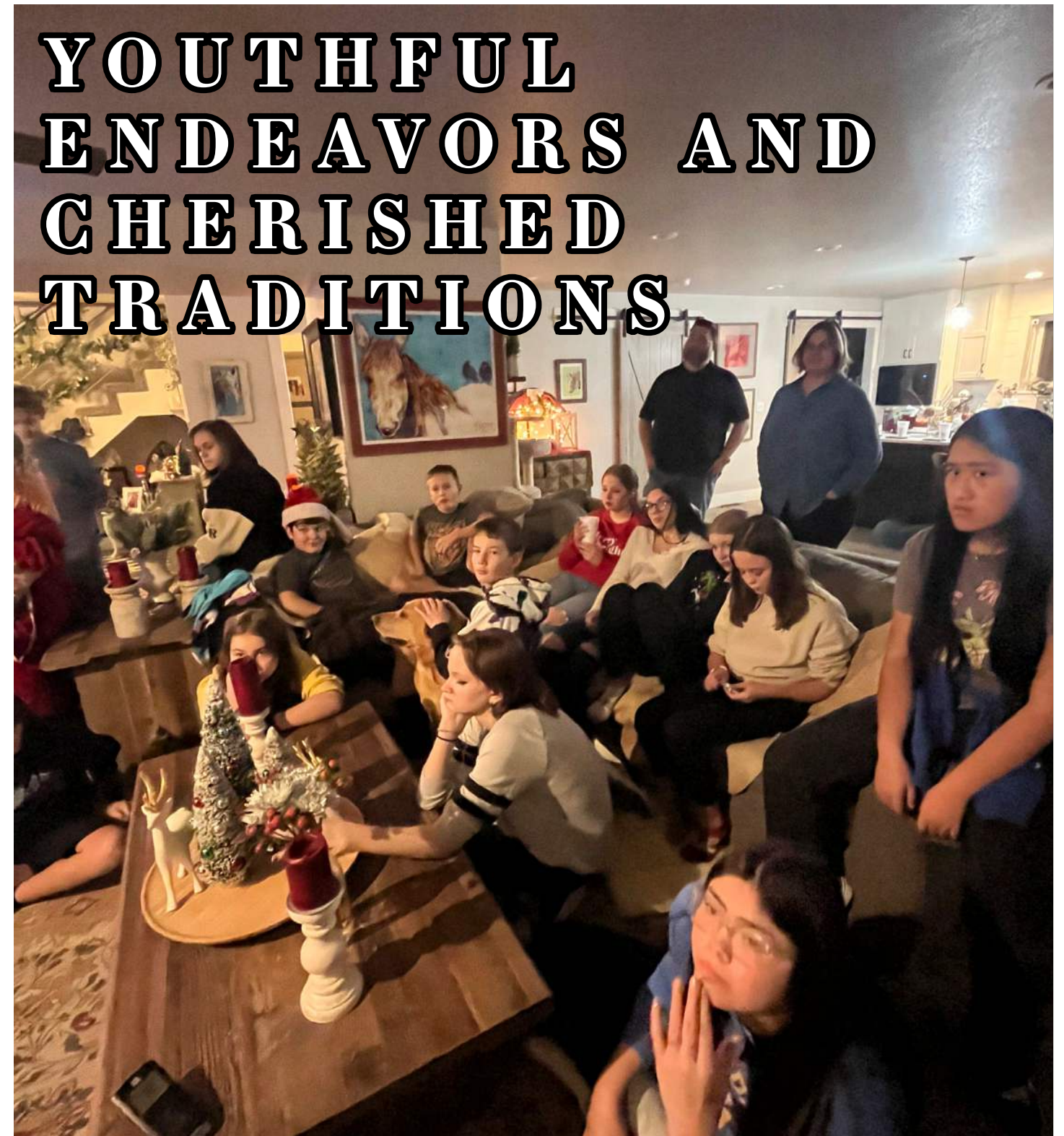
OFFICE HOURS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY !:

The office will be closed on January 1, 2024, in observance of the Holiday.

The office will be staffed by volunteers January 2 to January 4 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

Thank you for patience and understanding as we undergo these changes!

## YOUTHFUL ENDEAVORS AND CHERISHED TRADITIONS



## BY EMILY FARRENKOPF

As we find ourselves at the tail end of another year, it's hard to believe how swiftly time has flown by. The past months have been filled with the vibrant energy of the youth, who have actively participated in various community events and cherished traditions that have come to define our group.

November and December were marked by the spirited enthusiasm of the youth as they engaged in our yearly Christmas fundraiser. With a collective goal in mind, our youth tirelessly worked towards dreams of next summer's mission trip. Thank you so much to everyone who continues to support this fundraiser year after year.

In the true spirit of the season, our youth group took the time to spread holiday cheer by caroling at two local nursing homes. The resonating melodies and heartfelt performances brought smiles to the faces of the elderly residents, creating lasting memories and fostering a sense of connection between generations. This was the first time we took the group caroling,



and we are hopeful that this is something that we can continue to do in years to come.

The holiday season is a time for giving, and our youth embraced this sentiment by volunteering as personal shoppers at the HOL Santa's Workshop. Playing a pivotal role in helping others find the perfect gifts for their loved ones, our youth demonstrated the true meaning of generosity and selflessness. A huge thank you to everyone who worked so tirelessly to put on this incredible event.

As the year drew to a close, the youth group celebrated with a beloved tradition—the digressive dinner. We travel from house to house to eat different courses, starting with dessert and ending with hot cocoa and cider! This gathering not only allowed members to reflect on the year's accomplishments but also provided a moment to share laughter, stories, and good food. The digressive dinner served as a fitting end to the year, bringing a sense of camaraderie and unity among the youth.

As we bid farewell to another year, it's heartening to reflect on the positive impact our youth group has had on the community and the meaningful traditions that have shaped



Youth with Santa and Mrs Claus during Santa's Workshop. The youth helped out with gift wrapping and othertasks and served as personal shoppers for the kids.

our collective identity. The memories created during the Christmas fundraiser, caroling, volunteering, and the digressive dinner serve as a testament to the power of community engagement and the enduring spirit of generosity and togetherness that defines our

youth group. As we look forward to the coming year, let us carry these experiences with us, fostering a sense of community, compassion, and joy in all our endeavors.



Youth distribute Christmas decor purchased through their annual fundraiser. Youth pictured are Rowan McKay, Ethan Shipp, Sofia Sam, Wyatt Robitaille, Adrian Gallegos, Bryce Howard, Avery Howard, Arden Howard, Brayden Landers, Sam Firebaugh, Charlotte Farrenkopf, and Kameron Sam.



Personal Shoppers during Santa's Workshop.



Personal Shoppers during Santa's Workshop.

## WESLEY TOWNHOMES PROJECT DEVELOPMENTS



Although we do not have visual evidence of physical activity, there have been many developments with the Wesley Townhomes project.

In September the application for the project was submitted to the City of Longmont. We received comments and questions regarding the application in mid-November.

The primary issues raised by the City relate to support of the fire suppression systems and the location and size of the trash/recycling enclosure. The enclosure issue concerns easements, tree protection, size of the enclosure and access for collection. There has been conflicting information regarding the size of the enclosure. The Inn Between, the architect and the contractor are engaging with the City to understand their concerns and determine appropriate ways to address them.

Once the issues have been addressed additional changes will have to be made to the site plan, and then the plan will be resubmitted to the City. Hopefully the application will be approved with that submission and the project can move forward.



## A NEW CHOIR SEASON BEGINS!

Welcome to a new season of choral singing with the Chancel Choir! We are looking forward to offering new and uplifting choral gifts of music on the first and third Sundays of each month. The highlight of the season will occur on Palm Sunday, March 24th with the Easter Cantata Who is Jesus? by the award-winning American composer Joel Raney.

Rehearsals for chancel choir will begin on Thursday, January 24th and will occur on Thursdays from 7-8:30pm in the music room. If you play an instrument or sing, we would love for you to join us in our season of music making! Please reach out to Jeff Dixon at [musicdirector@heartoflongmont.org](mailto:musicdirector@heartoflongmont.org) to receive more information about our upcoming music and schedule.



## DONATE BLOOD AT HOL

Do you want to make a difference in someone's life immediately? Have you considered donating blood? The ability to donate blood here at the Heart of Longmont is coming on Sunday, January 28 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM in Wesley Hall. It is often difficult to squeeze in a trip to donate blood during the work week, but this event is on a Sunday, near regular worship time. You can come to worship and stay to save a life.

See the infographic on the next page for information on how donating blood makes a huge difference in our community and others' lives. Reach out to Tricia Grafelman if you have questions.



## #DidYouKnow: BLOOD FACTS

SOMEONE  
NEEDS  
BLOOD  
EVERY



2 SECONDS

1 in 7 people entering a hospital will need blood



## THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR BLOOD

Blood travels through  
**60,000 MILES**  
of vessels inside you, enough  
to wrap around the earth's  
equator roughly 2.5 times



AN AVERAGE  
ADULT BODY  
CONTAINS



### RED BLOOD CELLS

carry oxygen  
throughout the  
body and must be  
transfused within  
42 days

42



### PLATELETS

promote blood  
clotting and must  
be used within  
five days

5



**PLASMA** is 92  
percent water,  
carries nutrients  
throughout the  
body and can be  
frozen up to 1 year

1



**700  
DONORS**

are needed **EVERY DAY** to meet the blood  
needs of hospital patients in our region



 **GIVE BLOOD TODAY | vitalant.org**

**vitalant.**



## THE PRICE WE PAY TO BELONG

BY CAREY CANDRIAN, PHD

"Are you Carey?" she asked.

"Yes. Are you Joan?"

"Yes. Thank you for meeting with me and thank you for letting us hang your photographs of older LGBTQ women in our chapel."

"I mean thank you," I said. "It's really an honor to have them here."

I met Joan this morning. She is a member at a Methodist Church in Colorado. They are celebrating their 10th anniversary of being a reconciling congregation around inclusivity.

"We split because we didn't just want to be accepting. We wanted to be embracing of LGBTQ people. Semantics matter, you know?" Joan said. "Anyway, so here is our chapel and where I'm thinking the photographs will go. Does this work?"

"Yeah, it's perfect," I said.

"Great," she replied, "and we'll insure them so nothing happens to these women."

After meeting Joan, I headed to the University of Colorado Boulder to do some work. It's back to school. I walked across the iconic bridge admiring the usual large fish slowly moving around, the turtles making their way to a floating log to catch the sun, and the canopy of trees.

Below me, the concrete path that winds its way through campus was filled with chalk.

God is so good. Come 2 mass.  
Mass Sunday 6pm. St. Thomas Aquinas.  
Become the man God wants you to be.  
God is calling you.  
You know you should go to mass.  
I love you. I'm praying for YOU.  
Shut up and be loved.

The chalk was everywhere. Perfect penmanship. Perfect amount of chalk to see from the distance. Perfectly timed with back to school and move in. Perfectly placed to maximize visibility.

It was perfectly organized.

The chalk made me stop. I sat down for a minute on a flagstone bench and took a sip of water and re-read what was in front of me: Shut up and be loved.

It was the "shut up" part that took me to the bench – it felt like an octopus wrapping its arms around my throat.

Holding my water bottle, I tilted it so the water slowly dripped out and fell right on the chalk. I watched as the "s," the "h," "u," "t," "u" and "p" slowly blended together and then disappeared.

Three years ago, Alana Chen died at 24 in Boulder, Colorado. She loved ultimate frisbee and was an incredibly talented musician with over 2,000 original compositions. She loved her dogs. And she dreamed of becoming a nun.

At 14, she confessed to her priest that she was attracted to women. That priest (in Boulder) convinced her not to tell her family. To "shut up" just like the lesson from the chalk. For 7 years, Alana sought pastoral counsel and conversion therapy. After several hospitalizations, she ended her life in 2019. Her story is now beautifully and heartbreakingly captured by Simon Kent Fung in Dear Alana, which has topped podcast charts in the U.S. and Canada this summer. I listened to all 8 episodes of Dear Alana this weekend driving through New Mexico.

Through the sage, the pine trees, the iconic puffy northern New Mexican clouds, and the bluest sky that I thought would go on forever.

Although I had just met Alana through Simon, I thought about her a lot, and all the other Alana's out there.

And the price so many still pay to belong. Or better, to be embraced, to use Joan's word. Shutting up is not a form of love. Having to hide – or convert – who you are, is also not a form of love.

In fact, it's quite the opposite.

As I walked across the chalk back to work, I thought about something I just read by Donna Ashworth:

*there is no such thing  
as too much love  
but your own  
is all you truly need.*

I didn't have my own chalk to write that on the sidewalk.



Carey Candrian, PhD is an Associate Professor at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. This editorial has been reprinted here with permission from the author.



# NOVEMBER YTD FINANCAL UPDATE

By the time you read this, 2023 will be over and we'll be into a new year. Given the timing of this newsletter, watch for a year-end update in the Pulse towards the end of January.

Through November, Income is higher than 2022 by 7.1%, primarily related to several significant additional contributions from longtime members. Expenses are higher than 2022 by 9.0% with the biggest increases in utilities, payroll, conference apportionment (due to higher income), interest on the HVAC loan, and 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 20% less than the

budgeted loss through November. As previously reported, in setting the budget for 2023, we identified several opportunities to mitigate the budgeted loss, with the two largest opportunities being 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. These additional opportunities have not materialized. However, thanks to a \$40,000 legacy gift from a former member, there is an opportunity to offset a large portion of

	YTD 2023	YTD 2022
Income	\$ 353,823	\$ 330,345
Expenses	\$ 407,208	\$ 373,707
Income greater than (less than) expenses (deficit)	\$ (53,385)	\$ (43,362)

the year to date loss. Giving in December will determine how much of this bequest we need to use to pay for this year's investments and whether we have any dollars available as an addition to the general endowment fund.

If you would like more information about the church's finances, please contact Rod Edmonds, Treasurer.

# STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN UPDATE

By Rod Edmonds, Heart of Longmont Treasurer



I wanted to give you an update on our 2024 Stewardship Campaign and to thank those who submitted a pledge card. If you haven't turned in a pledge card, I would like to encourage you to join the 75 families who have already submitted theirs.

comments made:

- Thankful for a congregation that enabled so many young people to participate in this past summer's mission trips
- After so many years of declining attendance and membership, it is great to see the new trajectory: more children, a dynamic and growing youth program, more diversity in our congregation, more new members, more baptisms
- In our mission outreach we are moving from transactional interactions to connectional interactions evidenced by giving away more than 500 hand gun safes, hosting meals at HOPE and Recovery Café, and celebrating our reconciliation with a powerful photo display.

As you probably know, we entered 2023 with a commitment to expand our impact in our ministry and mission work. This commitment was evident in our approving a deficit budget for 2023 as we made investments in new programs, connections and technology, and in taking on debt to address aging infrastructure needs in our facility.

It is evident that these investments are making a difference in the lives of our members and community.

2023 at Heart of Longmont has been incredibly inspirational for me. Whether it was completion of the Outdoor Learning Center, the Indoor Learning Center, the Chapel renovation, the technology changes in our Sanctuary, or hosting our first "At the Table" discussion with Bryn Long in October, Celebration Sunday, the 10-year anniversary of our decision to be a reconciling congregation with Bishop Karen's participating in our worship, OR our new relationship with Recovery Café...it all represents HOL putting more of God's love into the world and that is because of you.

During the All Church Conference, it was so affirming to hear our members lift up the ways we've been living into our mission. For those of you who could not attend, here are a few

Our challenge for 2024 and beyond is how to financially support expanding and dynamic ministries and missions. This is where your pledge becomes so important. It will help us plan for 2024 as we look at supporting greater demands for a growing church (investments) and it will allow us to plan for further reduction in our debt and addressing critical infrastructure needs for our facilities.

Through December, we've received 76 pledge cards totaling \$318,365 in support of our mission and ministries. These totals are approximately 90% of the totals for all of last year's campaign.

The good news is that it is not too late to pledge your support for 2024. We still have plenty of cards; you can request one from the ushers or you may get one by calling the church office or stopping by during office hours.

In these seasons of Thanksgiving and Advent, one of the blessings I lifted up was that Heart of Longmont is my home church and I am proud to be part of our efforts to put more of God's love into the world.

Again, THANK YOU for your commitment and support to the Heart of Longmont.



# UWF HAD A BUSY 2023, LOOK FORWARD TO 2024

By Lynn Greenhalge



United Women in Faith have been busy the last couple months!

The Holiday Fair in November is our biggest fundraiser of the year and as always your support made it a BIG success. 31 vendors filled Wesley Hall and a Treasure Trove of goodies were in the Library. Lunch was served in the Gallery along with our own baked goods, candies, and craft items.

The monies raised during the year benefit global, national, and local missions. \$2500 was given back to the church for the bathroom renovation. \$2000 was sent to UWF national office as "second mile" giving as we had already paid our yearly pledge. \$450 each was



given to HOPE, Safe Shelter, The Inn Between and the OUR Center. All these resources help women, children, and youth, which are our main focuses.

YOU helped us put together Days for Girls kits to be sent to Africa so that girls can

have healthy feminine hygiene products and continue to go to school to further their education. This is an ongoing project and other opportunities for kit filling and building will happen in the coming year.



In 2024, on February 10, we will host an all church Unit Meeting with Jana Jones as our guest speaker. Jana attends Hope UMC in Centennial but is associated with our national office as well. Watch for more information in the weekly Pulse. Circles will continue to meet and if you are interested in joining us, please contact Mary Ann Watson or see the bulletin board outside the Chapel.

United Women in Faith take great pride in being very involved in our church and community and thank you for your support in all our endeavors.



# COMPASSION OFFERINGS

A new year brings a new series of compassion offerings.

Unfamiliar with our Compassion Offerings? Each month Heart of Longmont chooses an aspect of our ministry or a local organization for a special donation offering. Compassion offerings are one way we can help put more of God's love into the world and our Longmont community.

Compassion offerings for January and February are:

January - HOL Blessing Box  
February - HOPE

You can give online, during worship service, or by mail.







**A huge thank you to the team of angels who updated our two bathrooms!**

Thanks to their hard work, our bathrooms received new counters, paint, and flooring. What an upgrade!





## THE IMPACT OF LEGACY GIFTS

As many of you know, Heart of Longmont has been blessed over the years by faithful members who had the church in their will. They realized that by naming the church as a beneficiary in their estate plan they were assured of continued participation in the life and mission of the church well into the future.

This past year, the income distribution from Heart of Longmont's General Endowment Fund was allocated to provide \$3,000 towards the Outdoor Learning Center and \$12,000 to fund initiatives selected by the Ministry and Mission Design teams. Each team selected two initiatives; Ministry selected the makeovers of the Library (now Indoor Learning Center) and

Chapel, while Mission Design is using their allocation to cover costs of celebrating our 10-year anniversary of becoming a reconciling congregation, and the establishment of a new missional relationship with Recovery Café.

Just another way of putting more of God's love into the world...not just today, but well into the future.

If you have questions about Endowment Fund giving, you may talk to Paul Johnston, Keith Watson or Rod Edmonds, or you may contact the Methodists Helping Methodists Foundation ([mhmf.org](http://mhmf.org)).



# 5.12%<sup>APY\*</sup> Investments

Good for you  
Good for churches  
Good for others

\*5.12% APY is based on a minimum \$10,000 investment. Actual APY may vary. The actual APY is based on the current APY of the investment. The actual APY is based on the current APY of the investment. The actual APY is based on the current APY of the investment.

Methodists Helping Methodists  
802.779.8879



# MORE GUN SAFES, MORE LIVES SAVED

The final gun safe event for 2023 was on Veteran's Day. Following the parade United Church of Christ and Heart of Longmont UM Church distributed 228 free gun safes. Combined with the distribution in June, we have given away 634 gun safes!

According to data collected by Everytown For Gun Safety "hundreds of children in the US gain access to unsecured, loaded guns in closets and nightstands, in backpacks and purses, or just left out in the open. Nearly one child gains access to a loaded firearm and intentionally shoots himself or someone else every day in America."

Everytown For Gun Safety research also shows that "gun suicide claims the lives of 25,000 people in America every year. That's an average of 68 deaths a day. These deaths can be prevented. Policies and practices that focus on disrupting access to firearms in times of crisis have been proven to reduce firearm suicides".

We are making a difference in our community. If you are interested in being a part of this missional outreach, talk to Joan Edmonds.



## HOL COMMITTEES IN 2024

Our committee rosters are complete for 2024. Below are the committees and teams and their members.

**Leadership Council**  
*Chair:* Richard Fushia  
*Treasurer:* Rod Edmonds  
*Pastor:* Rev. Claire McNulty-Drewes  
*Director of Mission and Ministry:* Tricia Grafelman  
*Lay Leader:* Edy-Kay Ward  
*Delegate to Annual conference:* Karl Scott  
*Secretary:* Sandy Rabenhorst  
Peg Howard  
Jean Malchow  
Francine Berkey  
Bruce Shaver  
Sue Shipp  
Paul Johnston  
Ethan Shipp (youth representative)  
Brayden Landers (youth representative)  
Sarah Kears  
Chris Mason

**Mission Design**  
*Chair:* Joan Edmonds  
Marty Allison  
Hermine Ngomire  
Becky Vancura  
Mary Ann Watson  
Carol Leonardo  
Andrea Shipp

**Care Team:**  
Peg Howard  
Sue Shipp  
Marylyn Akeson  
Phyllis Oling  
Diane Kinlund  
Linda Meyer

**Lay Leadership:**  
Rev. Claire McNulty-Drewes, Pastor  
Edy-Kay Ward, Lay Leader  
Paul Johnston  
Keith Watson  
Joan Edmonds  
Gordon Yoder  
Butch Howard

**Facilities Design**  
*Co-Chairs:* Chris Medaugh and Linda Meyer  
Kang Sam  
Ron Madrid  
Clint Schahrer  
Tim Bradley  
Donna Gratton  
Ellen Winkelman  
Karl Scott

**St. Vrain Manor**  
Jo Lloyd  
Nancy Swope  
Gloria Hinz



# HEART OF LONGMONT CELEBRATES WILD PLUM

On December 15, the Heart of Longmont celebrated the Wild Plum staff with a breakfast. The gathering featured lively conversations around the tables while enjoying delicious food. One teacher enthusiastically shared, "I wait for this every year. I love that you do this for us."

Although Wild Plum preschool has been in our church for many years, our connection to the staff continues to evolve and deepen. This year the staff expressed their gratitude to the church by presenting a cross with vividly colored little handprints.

There are opportunities to serve with Wild Plum, if that speaks to your heart. Monthly, during the school year volunteers pack the ingredients for Chef Hearty meals into totes. Additionally every Wednesday and Friday, volunteers engage in reading to the children.

The presence of these little faces in our building brings joy to our church family. We are looking forward to continued connections with Wild Plum in 2024.



# SHARING A THANKSGIVING MEAL

*Dec 3, 2023  
To Missions Team, Heart of Longmont.  
Thank you so much for the wonderful dinner you provided on Wed., Nov 22, as you served the people of the Recovery Cafe. I am a volunteer at the Rec Cafe, and the entire dinner was perfect in every way. The food was perfect. There were menus. There were waiters and waitresses. Young people and adults helped serve the delicious food which*

*was so well prepared. The entire meal could not have been better. Since that evening, I have spoken to many people at the Recovery Cafe who share my sentiments. Thank you very very much.*  
Dale Sherrod  
Volunteer at Rec Cafe

On November 22, Heart of Longmont hosted a Thanksgiving meal for the members of Recovery Cafe Longmont. It was a supreme effort of many volunteers of all ages and abilities who helped provide entrees, side dishes, and desserts; serve the meal; set up and clean up; and much more. Massive thanks to Hermine Ngomire for organizing the meal.

At right you can see a thank you message we recieved. It reads:

To Missions Team, Heart of Longmont -

Thank you so much for the wonderful dinner you provided on Wed., Nov 22, as you served the people of the Recovery Cafe. I am a volunteer at the Rec Cafe, and the entire dinner was perfect in every way. The food was perfect. There were menus. There were waters and waitresses. Young people and adults helped serve the delicious food which was so well prepared. The entire meal could not have been better. Since that evening, I have spoken to many people at the Recovery Cafe who share my sentiments. Thank you very, very much.

Dale Sherrod  
Volunteer at Rec Cafe



# LOOKING BACK ON THE CHRISTMAS & ADVENT SEASON

The Advent and Christmas season at Heart of Longmont has been a busy one! On the following pages, we want to share photos from our many holiday season activities, including youth caroling, bell ringing, Santa's Workshop, our Christmas Cantata, the youth holiday party, Christmas Eve Service, and other moments. Thank you to everyone who shared their photos with us!

## CAROLING



## BELL RINGING







## SANTA'S WORKSHOP



Thank you to Karen Moore for the photos!

## CHRISTMAS CANTATA



# WORSHIPFUL MOMENTS



# YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY



Thank you to Karen Moore, again, for the photos!

# CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE





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 are meeting again! 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.

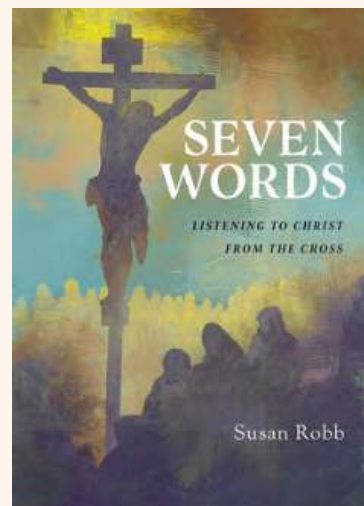
**Prayer Shawls Ministry of Comfort and Prayer** - Knitters and crocheters are called to help build our supply of prayer shawls for our members and community. Contact Peg Howard for more information.

**WE ARE A  
COMMUNITY  
THAT PRAYS**

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!



**Interested in joining us for a  
Lenten Study?**

The Faith and Reason adult study group will be watching the 2020 video series Seven Words: Listening to Christ from the Cross written and presented by Susan Robb.

"While many of us naturally wish to avoid the reality of the cross, it's from the cross that Jesus speaks and shows his deepest love for us. It's from the cross that Jesus' full humanity draws us closest to him."

If you would like to join the Faith and Reason group for their study and discussion this Lenten season, please contact Sandy Rabenhorst.

## WHAT IS LENT AND WHY DOES IT LAST FORTY DAYS?

From Ask the UMC FAQs | [www.umc.org](http://www.umc.org)

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word lencten, meaning "lengthen" and refers to the lengthening days of spring. The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry.

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by new converts and then became a time of

penance by all Christians. Today, Christians focus on relationship with God, growing as disciples and extending ourselves, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of ourselves for others.

Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter." This is why you will see the designation "Sunday in Lent" rather than "Sunday of Lent" in the naming of these Sundays. On each Lord's Day in Lent, while Lenten fasts continue, the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection.

## ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

**February 14**

**7:00 PM**

**Heart of Longmont  
350 11th Ave  
Longmont**



**IN THE SAME WAY, LET YOUR LIGHT  
SHINE BEFORE OTHERS, THAT THEY  
MAY SEE YOUR GOOD DEEDS AND  
GLORIFY YOUR FATHER IN HEAVEN.**

**MATTHEW 5:16**



## Give Online



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## 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!

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## 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  
Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM.

[www.heartoflongmont.org](https://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.

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