



MARCH/APRIL 2024

## NOTE FROM THE PASTOR



As I was sitting down to write this Pastor's Note, I wondered what ChatGPT might say about Lent. I asked the bot for an idea for an inspirational story about Lent and our editor,

Devon, wrote the tale. Here's the story:

*Once upon a time, a humble baker named Elias lived in a small village nestled in a land of rolling hills. Elias was the sort of person who kept to himself, more or less dedicated to his work of baking the bread that all the villagers used in their daily lives and routines: Morning loaves, dinner loaves, sweet loaves, pastries for special occasions, even cakes. You could say he was famous in the village for his delicious breads, which he made with love and dedication every morning before sunrise.*

*Winter lay upon the village in gentle sheets of white, fluffy snow, but the days were starting to lengthen. The village was preparing for the season of Lent, an important time in the lives of the villagers. Life might have gone on as it usually did, but as Elias woke early, night still upon the village, on Ash Wednesday morning to prepare the loaves for the day, he felt a kind of restlessness, a stirring. As he began to make the dough, he wondered if there was something more he could be doing, something more than just making and selling his loaves and pastries.*

*As he kneaded the dough, he thought of every person and family in the village in turn. The village was small, and everyone knew everyone, so it wasn't a great challenge. There was the miller's family, which was rather large, so they bought lots of bread. There was the local physician who was married to the midwife. Their*

*family was small but once a week they bought a special pastry for their children. He thought of the stonemason, the blacksmith, and the builders. He thought of the priest and the anchoress who resided in a secluded cell in the church. He didn't know her, of course, but he knew the priest provided well for her.*

*Then Elias thought of the farmers. He knew some of the families had struggled this winter. He suddenly recalled that he hadn't seen anyone from one farmer's family for weeks now. It occurred to him that they might not have the means to buy bread, and that they had been subsisting on whatever they had to hand.*

*At that realization, Elias knew what he could do.*

*Elias kept his regular routine: Rising early, making the bread, selling it at the morning market. But he made one important change, the change that satisfied the restless feeling he'd had that Ash Wednesday morning. He set aside a basket of bread and, after the closing of the market, took the fresh loaves—some still warm from the oven—to the farmhouses. The farmers were surprised to see him, and even more surprised when he gave each of them loaves free of charge. He gave no explanation, only smiled, bid them good day, and returned to the bakery.*

*Each morning after was the same. Elias rose, made his wares, and set aside a basket that he would bring to the farmers. He spent time with them, learned about their lives and struggles. On Sundays he would bring the children pastries to enjoy after church service.*

*He didn't reserve his kindness, but shared it with others as well. When the blacksmith's wife got sick and couldn't rouse herself from bed, Elias brought bread and some supplies without asking for anything in return. When anyone in the*

*village needed help or something extra to get them through the day, Elias would be there.*

*And his kindness didn't go unnoticed. It was a small village, and within the first couple days of Lent, everyone was talking about it: Elias, who nobody knew very well, was giving what he had to help others. Some of the villagers grew concerned that perhaps Elias, in his spirit of giving, was giving too much, and that he might start to struggle despite the kindness and love he showed his neighbors. A few of them approached Elias with their concerns, but he simply nodded with a smile, thanked them for their concern, and continued with his plan.*

*Not everyone completely understood this seemingly sudden burst of generosity, but all were touched by it in some way. That's how the spirit grew. Those that were concerned for Elias' well being started to help him in small but meaningful ways: Making small repairs, delivering firewood or other goods he might need, helping deliver bread around the village. By Palm Sunday, the villagers seemed closer to one another than they had before, for they weren't only helping Elias, but all their neighbors as well.*

*Elias was at his work again, as always, on Easter morning, but this morning felt different. It felt like a new beginning and he was sure that the seeds that had been planted during Lent would sprout and grow and flourish throughout the year and ever after. He remembered an old poet had once said: "No man is an island." How true that was, Elias thought. It seemed to him that there was no greater strength than love.*

*I like that! And I know, as well as all of you do, that sometimes life isn't easy. Sometimes it's extremely difficult.*

*The journey you and I are on is a profound one. It's a time of spiritual renewal, a*

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



period of introspection, and a chance for profound growth in our relationship with God.

Catherine Doherty says this about Lent: "Lent is a time of going very deeply into ourselves... What is it that stands between us and God? Between us and our siblings? Between us and life, the life of the Spirit? Whatever it is, let us relentlessly tear it out, without a moment's hesitation."

This Lent there are opportunities at Heart of Longmont to grow in your faith:

- Join me in reading the Gospel of Mark, the first and shortest gospel, to learn more about the life of Jesus and explore through the gospel how your faith can grow and change. There is a formal study time, but you can also

- do a daily reading on your own.
- Join in one of the small group opportunities for study and discussion.
- Consider a time of fasting.
- Consider a focus on prayer. Try to recite the Lord's prayer three times a day or maybe sit in quiet, prayerful contemplation during the day.
- Volunteer your time in one of our many ministries to those in our community who are in need.
- Take time to reflect on your life, examining your life and repenting of any wrongdoing.
- Simplify your life! Lent is a good time to focus on simplicity and detachment from "worldly distractions". Consider simplifying your schedule, decluttering your

living space, or reducing your consumption of material goods. This can help create space for spiritual growth and contemplation.

Remember that the purpose of Lent is not just to give something up for the sake of sacrifice, but to draw closer to God, grow in faith, and prepare spiritually for the celebration of Easter. Choose practices that resonate with you personally and help you to deepen your relationship with God.

In the spirit of the Wesleyan tradition, may you find your heart strangely warmed throughout this season as we make our way to our defining story of Easter.

See you in church,

- PASTOR CLAIRE

## IN THIS ISSUE

- Youth Spotlight
- AV updates in our sanctuary!
- A special trip to Guatemala with ODIM
- Lent and Easter at Heart of Longmont
- Easter Cantata
- Lenten Studies
- Reading to Wild Plum kids at the Indoor Learning Center
- New Members Spotlight
- Wesley Homes Updates
- Spring events at Heart of Longmont!



Avery Howard reads scripture during Sunday worship service



Ian Blackburn reads scripture during Sunday worship service

## WORSHIPFUL MOMENTS

During January and February, some of the Heart of Longmont Youth participated in Sunday worship service as scripture readers. It's wonderful to see our youth during worship! Thank you to the youth who volunteered their time on Sunday mornings.



# MEET THE HOL YOUTH GROUP

## BY EMILY FARRENKOPF

Our youth group is comprised of a diverse array of talented individuals, each with their own passions and accomplishments. In an effort to foster deeper connections

within our congregation, I've invited our youth to share a glimpse into their lives. From their daily pursuits to the moments they hold dear, we invite you to take a

moment to acquaint yourself with these remarkable young members.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4





**Sofia - 6th Grade**  
Sofia's passion is to draw and play the cello. She is into playing video games and loves to listen to music. She is really proud of her recent orchestra concert because she practiced really hard for it.



**Abby - 7th Grade**  
Abby loves playing sports. She says that she loves everything about them! She especially thinks that the games are fun and she enjoys just getting time to do something that she loves with teammates. She also loves to travel.



**Delilah - 7th Grade**  
Delilah likes reading and playing *Dungeons and Dragons*. She enjoys her science class and making punnet squares. Her best friends are the most important people to her. She also says that church is really fun, and that she loves her community.



**Wyatt - 8th Grade**  
Wyatt loves to game, play basketball, and spend time outdoors. He is a Navigator in Trail Life USA where he learns about outdoor life and being a good steward of creation through Christ. He has binge watched *Cobra Kai* and *Stargate: SG1* with his dad. He is also very proud of coding a game in *Roblox*.



**Charlotte - 9th Grade**  
Charlotte is on both her high school dance team and her dance studio's competitive team. Her high school team recently won first place in the JV State competition for 4A Poms. It is her school's first ever JV dance team so this was really exciting! Her studio competitive season starts in February and she will be competing with a solo and two group dances. When she isn't dancing, she is hanging out with her little sisters, her friends, or driving.



**Bryce - 9th Grade**  
Bryce is into drawing, playing games, and reading short stories. When she is at school, she draws and creates characters while on her free time. When she isn't in school, she likes to lay in her bed and spend time on her phone.



**Matthew - 6th Grade**  
Matthew likes to play sports such as soccer, basketball, and baseball. He also enjoys running. This past year, his soccer team competed in tournaments in South Dakota and New Mexico. His team came in second at both tournaments. Most of his time is spent playing sports or doing homework.



**Arden - 7th Grade**  
Arden likes crocheting, playing video games, and hanging out with friends. She is also very good at drawing.



**Gabe - 7th Grade**  
Gabe loves hanging out with friends and playing *Roblox*. He spends a lot of his time doing homework, participating in track, singing, and spending time on his phone. Lately, he has been binge watching *Abbot Elementary*.



**Adrian - 8th Grade**  
Adrian enjoys playing soccer and *Fortnight*. He spends most of his time hanging out with friends and doing homework. He really likes to travel when he can.



**Ethan - 9th Grade**  
Ethan's main hobbies and pastimes include drumline and golf. His drumline team recently placed first in their first competition and his team is currently ranked third in the entire country! He loves learning about God and being a part of the church's leadership committee. He hopes to grow his golfing and drumline abilities a lot over time and he hopes he can continue to learn about God and one day preach His Word.



**Kameron - 10th Grade**  
Kameron loves to hang out with friends and family and he has a huge passion for athletics such as playing soccer, running track and field, and going to the gym. He also really enjoys playing the saxophone in his school jazz band which keeps him busy from things that may otherwise distract him. His days are usually filled with school and he always goes to the gym. In the evenings he enjoys talking on the phone with friends while doing his homework or playing video games. During his soccer and track seasons, those sports are his main priorities which limits his time for other hobbies, but they are things he really enjoys doing so they are well worth his time.



**Rowan - 6th Grade**  
Rowan likes reading and he is good at math. His days are filled with school. He is proud of creating his model rockets and he recently got the Master Sword in *The Legend of Zelda: Tears of the Kingdom* video game. He also enjoys hiking and rock climbing at the rec center.



**Avery - 7th Grade**  
Avery fills her time with theater, hanging out with her friends, and going places with her mom. She is proud of all of her accomplishments in school including all of her assignments in Social Studies, Language Arts, etc. She enjoys binging new shows whenever she gets bored with old ones.

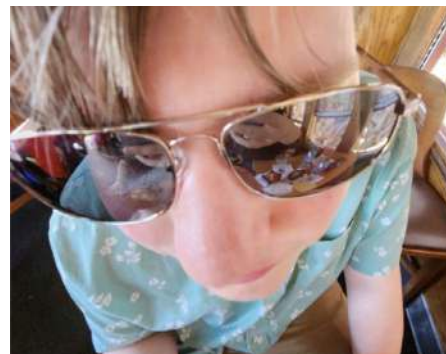


**Samantha - 7th Grade**  
Samantha is an avid reader and loves the book series called *Wings of Fire*. She likes to write her own books and enjoys playing volleyball.



**Bryson - 8th Grade**  
Bryson likes to play video games or being outside hanging out with his friends after school. He loves playing hockey. He has hockey practice every day as well as games and tournaments every weekend. He likes to play basketball and loves going to youth group on Sundays.





**Ian - 9th Grade**  
Ian's time is filled with music. He is passionate about band and plays the Tuba. He is also into watching soccer. His favorite TV show is *Psych* and his favorite movie is *Rush Hour*.



**Midori - 10th Grade**  
Midori is musically inclined and likes to write her own song lyrics and sing in choir. She also likes to journal. She loves paddle boarding and walking her dogs. Midori is very close to her older brother, Henry.



**Brayden - 10th Grade**  
Brayden plays football, basketball, and runs track. When he isn't busy being an athlete, he enjoys playing video games such as *Madden* and *NBA 2K*.



**Michaela - 11th Grade**  
Michaela spends most of her time reading and crocheting. She is also enjoying martial arts that she continues to get better at.



**Talia - 10th Grade**  
In the summer and spring, Talia enjoys playing competitive volleyball. The rest of the time, she is focusing on her studies as she is in the p-tech program at her school and it takes up most of her time. She likes to binge watch *Gray's Anatomy* even though she has seen it before. She also really enjoys attending youth group on Sundays.



**Kat - 11th Grade**  
Most of Kat's time is spent working on the musical they are in for their school and doing homework. They enjoy singing and their dream job is being an anthropology professor or museum curator.



**Baylor - 12th Grade**  
Baylor's hobby is staying active for work. He enjoys spending time with family. He has been working on making money to save up for his own apartment and is currently learning more about electrician work.



**Michael - 12th Grade**  
Michael's hobbies include basketball, gaming, and spending time with his family. He has been keeping a workout routine for a couple of months with his step-dad.

**From Emily:**  
I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude for the privilege of sharing in the youths' stories. Through their passions and achievements, they illuminate the vitality and promise within our youth group. Let us continue to embrace and encourage them on their journeys, recognizing that their presence enriches our congregation immeasurably. Thank you for taking this moment to connect with our young members. Together, let us continue to foster a community where each individual's unique gifts are celebrated and cherished.



## THE JOYS OF READING

by Lynn Greenhalge

Last summer, Hilary King, of the Wild Plum Center (Head Start) program housed in our education wing during the week, shared that with the new laws going into effect for Universal Preschool that the Wild Plum Center would have their kiddos five days a week from 8 AM to 4 PM. She wondered if our church was interested in having "Library Time", as we were in the midst of re-purposing the room at the time to use as a condensed Library/Indoor Learning Center.

An idea for a reading program was hatched and implemented with the help of volunteers from our congregation and the program has been going strong since the beginning of the school year in August. Readers come in on Wednesdays and either read to the 1- and 2-year-olds and 3- and 4-year-old classes in the Library or they go the infant room and read to

that class. On Fridays (and some Thursdays), the Pre-K kids come in two classes for a half hour segment each to have stories read to them, then they check out a book to take home with them for the week. This helps those students prepare for public school next year and the responsibilities of library books.

The readers have bonded with the children and the classes are so excited to come to the Library/Indoor Learning Center room, sit on a carpet and be read to. We recently had a donation of 51 "big" books to our program and they are loved by readers and children alike! We have a wonderful partnership with our Wild Plum program who service 56 children on a daily basis.

If you would like to become a reader, there are sign up sheets at the Hospitality desk (and required paperwork is there, as well) or contact Lynn Greenhalge.



## UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENGAGEMENT

by Joan Edmonds

Exciting events are on the horizon that promise to enrich our understanding and ignite meaningful discussions within our community.

In May, the HOL Mission Design Team invites you to join us for a panel presentation focusing on immigration, a topic that continues to captivate public attention. This discussion will delve into the intricacies of immigration policies and their impact, particularly within our local communities.

Mark your calendars for October when we welcome Amber Wylde, who will courageously share her personal

journey of growing up in the "Focus on the Family" evangelist community and later facing the challenges of being ostracized upon coming out as a lesbian. Amber's recently published book, *Out of Focus*, offers profound insights into her experiences—be sure to grab a copy and explore her inspiring narrative.

As November approaches, we will shift our focus to the plights of Indigenous Peoples in today's society. Join us for a table talk discussion dedicated to understanding the ongoing struggles faced by Native American communities amidst enduring disparities and discrimination. In recognition of Native American Heritage Month, let us come together to learn and reflect. Additionally,

we encourage you to explore Heart of Longmont's land acknowledgment statement [on our website](#), recognizing the Indigenous peoples whose land we occupy.

We look forward to your participation in these enlightening events and the meaningful conversations they will spark within our congregation.







# A/V UPDATES IN OUR SANCTUARY

BY HALEIGH BIRD

Hey howdy! Haleigh here. It's been a busy three months for me, and I'd love to share with you all what I've been up to and what changes have been made in the AV world around the church.

Renovations began the week after Thanksgiving and hit the ground running. The most obvious is the new main projector screen that measures at 189"! A big upgrade from the 75" TV. The Big Guy has been with us since November and along with it came ProPresenter, our new software that runs all the displays in the sanctuary, as well as our livestream. This software gives me creative freedom to create the best experience I can every Sunday and has been so fun to learn. And I'm still learning new things!

The Chapel, Nursery, and Library now have displays that are wired to watch the service as it's happening. This is big for Nursery and Children's Ministry staff who may want to tune in on Sunday, and we hope to utilize this functionality in the Chapel for memorial services. Speaking of the Library, the new display is a Smartboard for Wild Plum's use. It has been a blast getting to play with this new toy! I'm so excited that the Wild Plum staff now have a tool like this. Who knew a whiteboard with circuits could be so fun?

On the audio side, we have new speakers hung in the sanctuary! I am stoked about how they sound, and hope you all have heard the difference in clarity. While getting new gear so close to the Christmas Cantata was nerve-wracking, I am so happy I got to debut eight new microphones that way! That weekend was so fun, and I'm blessed to have a job that pays me to listen to such talented musicians. On our less busy Sundays, you can see the new microphones in front of the choir or bell choir. There's a new one hidden in the piano, too! Claire and Tricia also got new wireless microphones, which I think sound great.

The longest part of this overhaul was a major upgrade to our livestream! I redesigned our livestream setup from scratch, and on January 21, my team and I debuted a brand new look for our online viewers. If you haven't checked out a stream in a while, I encourage you to watch one the next time you aren't in worship. The biggest change is that we can now overlay lyrics, quotes, or whatever is on the projector screen on top of the cameras' video feeds, so viewers can see what's happening in the room! That might seem like a small detail, but it has truly changed the experience online.

I have learned a ton throughout this process, and know I will be learning more as I refine the details. A huge thank you to Marlen, who funded this project! None of this could have happened without his support. I am also incredibly grateful for those of you who saw me at the church at all sorts of odd hours and offered encouragement, while also making sure I was getting my rest! I promise I'm catching up on that rest now. I've been at HOL for a little over a year now, and constantly find myself feeling so lucky to be a part of such a lovely community.

Cheers, y'all!  
Haleigh Bird  
(she/her)



# PUTTING MORE OF GOD'S LOVE INTO THE WORLD WITH WATER FILTERS AND SMOKELESS STOVES

by Devon Towry

On February 23, a group of volunteers from Heart of Longmont traveled to Guatemala on a special mission working with ODIM-Guatemala.

Who are ODIM? They are the Organization for the Development of the Indigenous Maya (ODIM), a non-profit organization that works with the people of San Pablo La Laguna and San Juan la Laguna on issues of healthcare and preventative health care and education. They approach their work with a spirit of equality and honesty and work to empower local communities and people.

ODIM originally formed in the wake of Hurricane Stan in 2005 when a group of foreign residents of Lake Atitlán came together to provide humanitarian assistance to the communities and people devastated by the storm. Since that time, ODIM has grown and provides primary health care and health education programs in the rural communities



around Lake Atitlán with the help of many volunteers and the support of many churches, organizations, and individuals.

Heart of Longmont's volunteers are another piece of this important work. The group of volunteers are providing smokeless stoves and water filters for homes in the local community there. Both measures are essential to the health of people of all ages. Water filters ensure water is safe to drink and

use, and the smokeless stoves reduce the risk of respiratory illness and injury while still providing warmth and cooking surfaces.

Our Heart of Longmont volunteers will not only be putting more of God's love into the world this way, but will be learning about the local peoples and their communities. It is of greatest importance that organizations and volunteer groups be respectful of the people and culture of the communities they want to help and take steps to listen to, understand, and respect their needs. ODIM, in their work, understands how important this is.

Read more about ODIM, their programs, and how to support their work on their website: [www.odimguatemala.org](http://www.odimguatemala.org)

Heart of Longmont's volunteer group will not have returned before this publication, so please look forward to reading about their work in Guatemala in the May/June edition of the Heart Newsletter.



Photos from [odimguatemala.org](http://odimguatemala.org), copyright ODIM Guatemala

# BUILDING PERSONAL HEALTH KITS FOR GUATEMALA

HOL's team of volunteers not only brought themselves to Guatemala but also a collection of personal health and hygiene kits put together by a team of volunteers in February.

Thank you to all those who helped put the kits together and donated their time and other resources towards this amazing opportunity to serve in our global community.





# 2023 FINANCIAL UPDATE

by Rod Edmonds, Treasurer

I am pleased to present our financial update for the year 2023.

In terms of financial matters, 2023 was a tremendous success. Initially budgeted with a deficit of approximately \$60,000, primarily reflecting investments in ministry and mission, we achieved nearly break-even status for the year. This accomplishment speaks volumes about the dedication of our faithful community and affirms that our investments are yielding dividends not only in monetary terms but also in the meaningful impact of our ministry and mission endeavors.

Financially, we closed the year on a strong note. Our income for the year exceeded that of 2022 by 19%, driven by significant additional contributions from longtime members, generous giving from new members, non-pledge income attributed to increased worship attendance, and the receipt of a \$40,000 legacy gift from a former member.

While our expenses experienced a 10.8% increase compared to 2022, our year-to-date

	2023	2022
Income	\$ 452,730	\$ 380,534
Expenses	\$ 456,182	\$ 411,587
Income greater than (less than) expenses (deficit)	\$ (3,452)	\$ (31,053)

loss was significantly lower than the budgeted amount.

We are immensely grateful for your substantial contributions towards our regular operations and facilities, as well as your dedicated support, including:

- Almost \$19,000 directed towards our youth program for two mission trips.
- \$24,000 allocated for the Wesley Townhomes project and the Outdoor Learning Center.
- \$15,700 designated for our monthly compassion offerings.

Furthermore, we were fortunate to secure a

grant of \$46,800 to facilitate the transition to LED lighting and received a special gift to enhance our video and sound systems in the sanctuary.

In summary, 2023 was an exceptional year. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to each of you for your unwavering support through your time, talent, and financial contributions. Your collective efforts have enabled us to achieve remarkable accomplishments and to put more of God's love into the world.

For further information regarding the church's finances, please do not hesitate to contact Rod Edmonds, Treasurer.



## THE IMPACT OF LEGACY GIVING

Heart of Longmont has been blessed for years by the amazing, ongoing support and generosity of our members. We are especially grateful for those faithful members who have chosen to include the church in their estate plans, leaving a lasting legacy that ensures the vibrancy of the church's mission for the future.

Thanks to these legacy gifts, we have been able to make a significant impact in our community this past year and further our ministry initiatives. The income distribution from Heart of Longmont's General Endowment Fund allowed us to allocate \$3,000 towards the development of our Outdoor Learning Center and \$12,000 to fund projects chosen by our Ministry and Mission Design teams.

The Ministry Team directed funds towards the

transformation of our Library into an Indoor Learning Center for the use of not only our members and congregation, but the students at Wild Plum Head Start. The ILC has been the site of a reading program for Wild Plum kids these past few months. (You can read more about this project in this newsletter.) The Ministry Team also initiated the renovation of our Chapel, providing a more comfortable and modern space for spiritual growth and community engagement.

The Mission Design team allocated portions of their funds for two key initiatives: Celebrating our 10-year anniversary as a reconciling congregation (which we are celebrating this year) and establishing a new missional relationship with Recovery Café.

Through these projects, we hope to demonstrate our commitment to spreading

God's love in real, meaningful ways in our community and signify our dedication to building a strong foundation for the future of our community and our church.

If you are interested in learning about how you can contribute to our Endowment Fund or how to include Heart of Longmont in your estate planning, please feel free to reach out to Paul Johnston, Keith Watson, or Rod Edmonds. You can also find more information about giving opportunities through the Methodists Helping Methodists Foundation at [mhmf.org](http://mhmf.org).

Thank you for your continued support of and dedication to the mission and ministry of Heart of Longmont. Together, we are making a lasting impact in our community.



## WESLEY TOWNHOMES PROJECT UPDATES

by Rod Edmonds

You know the old saying: This is like watching grass grow, or watching paint dry. Well, some days, that is how I feel as we monitor progress for the Wesley Townhomes. I am pleased to say we are making great progress on the Wesley Townhomes project, an endeavor that holds great significance for our community.

In January we had a productive meeting with Tim Rakow and Laura Liotino from The Inn Between (TIB), where we discussed the following key developments.

### Documents Resubmission

On February 1, the revised Wesley Townhomes Minor Subdivision Plat and Site Plan were submitted to the City for review. On February 8, the City indicated the submission was acceptable for review and that comments will be available March 11. It's worth noting that we are confident in our progress and believe we are approximately 95% of the way towards having the site plan approved.

### Timeline Overview

Assuming minimal additional comments from the City, it is conceivable that the site plan could be approved by May 1.

Upon approval, we will proceed with executing the shared space agreement and the restricted deed to transfer title to TIB.

TIB will then initiate the process of applying for building permits, marking a significant step forward in the project.

We are planning to host a groundbreaking ceremony between the submission of the building permit request and the end of summer. This will be a momentous occasion and a cause for celebration.

Construction could commence as early as August or September, with an expected completion date in late summer or fall of 2025.

### Fundraising and Financing

TIB is making excellent progress in their fundraising and financing efforts. While there are no indications of potential delays stemming from financing, we remain cautiously optimistic.

### Promotional Efforts

TIB continues to actively pursue grants and is currently revising their promotional materials



for 2024. The Wesley Townhomes project will be prominently featured and we can expect to receive updated elevations and overhead views of the development. Upon receipt, we will prominently display these in the Church.

Exciting times lie ahead, and I am grateful for your continued interest, support and enthusiasm for the Wesley Townhomes project. Together, we are making a meaningful difference in our community.

Watch for more updates as the project progresses.



## COMPASSION OFFERINGS

In March, our compassion offering will support the Easter Music Cantata. (Read more about the cantata on page 13.)

In April, our compassion offering will support UMCOR.

We have a special compassion offering for Easter Sunday, which supports the Wesley Townhomes and Habitat for Humanity.

If you are able to give to any of these special offerings, scan the giving QR code on page 20 and select the Compassion Offering tile, or [visit our website and click "give online."](#)

## FACILITIES TEAM UPDATE

Thank you to our Facilities Design Team for taking care of all the details that make our church home usable.

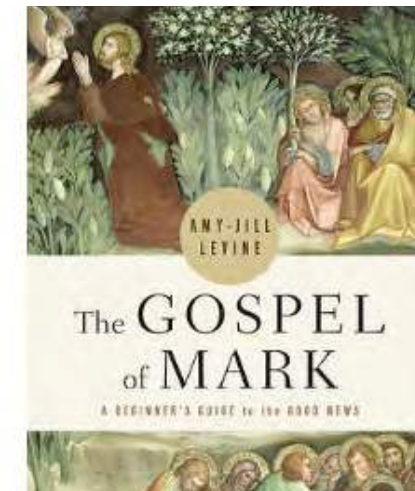
Many of us are not aware of all the work it takes to keep our building not only usable but safe and comfortable. Lately the team have updated the men's and women's bathrooms, dealt with burst pipes in our women's restroom, managed security and fire protocols, dealt with leaking ceilings in the gallery, put up Plexiglass to protect our stain glass window on the south wall, and responded to many more small emergencies. Thank you to John Murphy and Ryan (J and J Construction), Karl Scott, Chris Medaugh, Clint Schahrer, Scott and Lynn Greenhalge, and Tim Bradley for using your gifts for God in service to our church.

Thank you also to all those that have been making sure the snow is removed from the sidewalks when we arrive at church on Sunday mornings.

It takes teamwork to make the dream work and our dream is "Put More of God's Love into the World"!



# LENT AND EASTER AT HEART OF LONGMONT

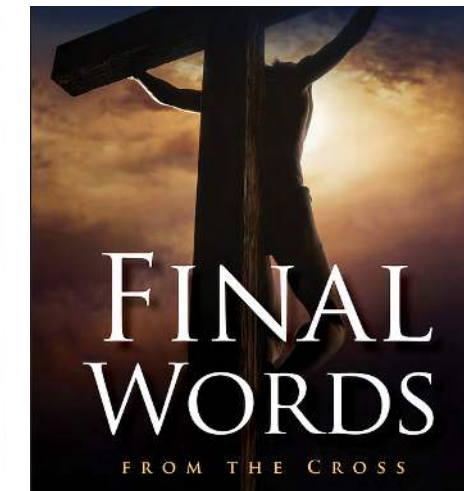


ADVENTURERS

The Adventurer's Adult Ministry Class meets at 8:45 AM in the Parlor on Sundays. Their Lenten study this year is *The Gospel of Mark: A Beginner's Guide to the Good News* by Amy Jill Levine.

This study began February 18, but you can join the class at any time. Purchasing the book is not necessary. The class will watch a short video at the beginning of class to jump start the conversation.

If you have any questions, [please reach out to Tricia Grafelman at tricia@heartoflongmont.org.](#)



FAITH AND REASON

The Faith and Reason Adult Ministry Class will be using Adam Hamilton's video series *Final Words From The Cross*.

This study began on February 18, but you can join the class at any time. They meet in person Sunday mornings at 8:30 AM to 9:30 AM but you can also call in via Zoom if you are not able to attend in person.

For information on the class and how to join via Zoom, [please contact Sandy Rabenhorst through the church office.](#)



GOSPEL OF MARK

We are now in the holy season of Lent. Pastor Claire invites you to join her for a Lenten Study on the Gospel of Mark.

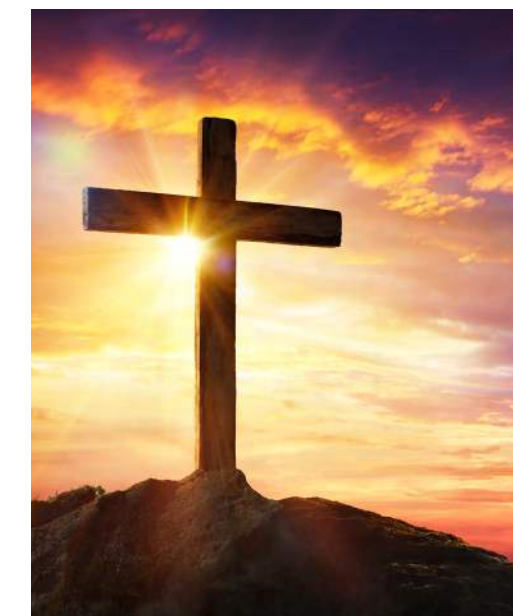
The study will be in two sessions. The first session is Tuesdays at 12:00 PM in person at Heart of Longmont. The second is Tuesdays on Zoom at 6:00 PM. The first session was held Tuesday, February 20, but you may join any time.

If you're interested in joining this Lenten study, [please contact the church office.](#)

## TRANSGENDER VOICES STORIES OF STRENGTH AND LOVE

"Being Transgender is hard, and if I can help even one person on that journey, and teach others what it means to be transgender, then my soul is happy."  
— Sal Skog

Award-winning photojournalist, Sal Skog, has interviewed and photographed more than 100 transgender people in five states. She will be sharing their illuminating stories at Heart of Longmont on Sunday, April 14, at 11:15 AM to 12:15 PM (after worship service). Sal will be joined by a representative from the trans community to help answer questions.



## WHO IS JESUS? EASTER CANTATA

by Jeff Dixon, Music Director

Not "Who Was Jesus?" but "Who *Is* Jesus?" The question is asked in the present tense because it's Christ's interaction with our lives in the here and now that is the focus of this cantata. The events of Holy Week are presented through lush arrangements of familiar hymns and spirituals: *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me, Sweet By and By*, and *Fairest Lord Jesus*, to name a few.

Descriptive narration interweaves the story of Jesus' life through each of the moments, which culminates in the crucifixion story during a moving rendition of *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*. Scored for a small chamber orchestra, the instruments include Piano, Organ, Flute, Oboe, Violin, Cello, and French Horn. Join us on Palm Sunday as we celebrate and take a musical journey through Holy Week that points towards Resurrection on Easter Sunday.





## HOLY WEEK AT HEART OF LONGMONT

Holy Week is a special time in the life of the church. Holy Week gives us an opportunity to journey with Jesus through his final days, contemplating the significance of his sacrifice and the hope that his resurrection brings. We hope you will join us in the following opportunities:

**Palm/Passion Sunday** — The children will lead us in a palm parade on Palm Sunday, followed by a powerful cantata from our Chancel Choir and an orchestra.

**Holy/Maundy Thursday Service** — Maundy Thursday, or Holy Thursday, sets the stage for Good Friday, the day of Jesus' crucifixion. The word "Maundy" is derived from the Latin word "mandatum", meaning commandment, referring to Jesus' commandment to

his disciples at the Last Supper. It is a service reminding us of Jesus' teachings on love, humility, and service. Please join us for a meaningful service at 7:00 PM on March 28.

**Good Friday Service** — This year, Heart of Longmont will join the area United Methodist Churches for a service to remember and retell the story of Jesus' death. Please join us for a meaningful evening on March 29 at Longs Peak UMC (1421 Elmhurst Drive, Longmont) at 7:00 PM.

**Easter Sunday** — Please join us for an inspiring morning celebrating our defining story at 10:00 AM on March 31. There will be an Easter Egg Hunt after the service for children 1st grade and younger.

You're invited to celebrate

# EASTER

at Heart of Longmont UMC

<p><b>PALM SUNDAY</b></p> <p>10:00 AM Worship Service with Palm Parade &amp; Easter Cantata - Who Is Jesus?</p>	<p><b>GOOD FRIDAY</b></p> <p>7:00 PM Good Friday Service at Long's Peak UMC</p>
<p><b>HOLY THURSDAY</b></p> <p>7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service</p>	<p><b>EASTER SUNDAY</b></p> <p>10:00 AM Easter Worship Service Easter Egg Hunt for Children 1st Grade and Younger after Service</p>



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

On February 18, we welcomed new members to our church family. If you see them in church, say hello and introduce yourself! Our new members are: Diana McCoy; Cathy Beaty; Sarah, Kyle, Kat, and Ian Blackburn; Ashley and Antony Smelianski; Nancy Rist; Amy Mann; DeAnna and Daniel Clink; and Shirley and Eric Andrews-Sharer. Some of our new members wanted to introduce themselves to you and share some of their background and history in the church. Read about them below!

### *Sarah, Kyle, Kat, and Ian Blackburn*



We moved to Colorado from Arkansas in December. Sarah and the children are lifelong United Methodists and Kyle came to the UMC upon marriage in 1999. The whole family is musically talented and enjoys using their music to worship. Kyle and Sarah have been married for 24 years. Kyle was a music director in UMC churches for 21 years. The family is enjoying the Colorado weather and have felt very welcome at Heart of Longmont. Kat and Ian go to Silver Creek High School where they are in 11th and 9th grades.

### *Nancy Rist*

I worked in the Marine Industry in Florida for the last 50 years and taught school in Illinois (junior high) before moving to Florida. While at CUMC I served on Church Council for three years as well as a member of the security team. I love all sports, camping, hiking, and being outdoors.

### *Shirley and Eric Andrews-Sharer*

We've been married 39 years. Grew up in Wisconsin, and moved for Eric's job to Phoenix, AZ; Wheaton, IL; and Columbus, OH. We recently retired in 2023 and chose Longmont to be closer to our three adult children (at least closer by time zone, and our middle daughter lives in Denver).

Eric loves being outside, training and racing in Triathlons. His favorite bike rides in the area so far are Brainard Lake to Carter Lake.

Shirley and Eric hike almost weekly somewhere up in Rocky Mountain National Park. Shirley loves Bible study and has a heart for intercessory prayer.

### *Amy Mann*

I was born in Boulder Colorado in 1971 and grew up in Hygiene. My mom was a single parent and we became Methodists when I was four. I was baptized at Hygiene United Methodist Church in 1979. I have been a communication teacher/faculty member at Front Range Community College for 18 years.



My grandparents owned a farm in Longmont from 1939 to 1969 in North Longmont. The property is now a Super Walmart. My dad was from Texas and came into my life when I was 14. He was Ted Kennedy's Press Secretary and later served as a journalism professor at the University of Texas. I have a half sister, Liz, who lives in Austin. She, too, is a devoted Methodist, and serves as a spiritual director.

I have a 29-year-old son, Jacob, who is very active in local politics and is a teacher at Frederick High School. He is married to

Becca, a health care professional and nursing student. They have a 15-month old son, Theodore, who happens to be my favorite person. Becca and Jake are expecting another baby in August.

I have been married to the love of my life, Bob Miner, for 14 years. We met when I was 15 and he was 14. Our daughter Adeline was born in August 2009 and died of SIDS in 2010. We live in Longmont and are the proud parents of Bodhi, a 77-pound pitbull mix. I sang in praise team and choir at my previous church and am committed to community outreach and have been an active volunteer with HOPE and the OUR Center for over a decade.

I'm excited to get to know the Heart of Longmont family and hope to contribute to the amazing work you do. I am committed to the mission of the greater United Methodist Church. I'm a devout feminist and believer in the teachings of Christ. I'm dedicated to equity, justice, and the rights of all human beings.

### *DeAnna and Daniel Clink*

Daniel grew up in the United Methodist Church in Binghamton, New York. DeAnna came to faith her senior year of high school. When DeAnna was completing her music therapy internship, she attended Daniel's church where they both sang in the choir.

After they both finished college, they relocated to Charlotte, North Carolina. DeAnna taught children's choir and instrumental ensemble, rang handbells, played flute/clarinet/percussion, and sang alto in the adult choirs. Daniel was a 9th grade boys youth leader and completed many mission trips with the youth group. Daniel continued to sing tenor in the



adult and chamber choirs. They moved to Frederick in June 2022.

DeAnna teaches elementary music, directs an after school choir, and directs the school's 4th to 8th grade school musical. In her "Free" time, DeAnna loves to cross stitch, build legos, solve puzzles, and read or watch anything true crime.

Daniel started his own business this past fall and has been working hard to grow and expand in the Frederick area. He loves to play video games, run *Dungeons and Dragons* sessions, and spoil their two dogs: Rocky and Sandy.



**Ashley and Antony Smelianski**

Ashley and Antony got married in October of last year! They are new homeowners in Mead and love spending time with their five animals. Ashley enjoys reading and crafting. Antony enjoys astrophotography and coding. They enjoy going to the gym, hiking, and exploring new places together.



## GAME NIGHT!

It's not often we get a chance to socialize and hang out with folks of different ages and interests. Last year, HOL hosted a few hours where we mixed folks of different ages together to play a variety of board games, trivia games, and card games, and it was a such a hit we're doing it again!

This year's Intergenerational Game Night will be on Sunday, March 17, (yes, that's also Saint Patrick's Day!) in Fellowship Hall from 4 PM to 7 PM. This event is open house, so feel free to come any time!



## BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Pastor Claire will be blessing our beloved animal friends and family members on Sunday, April 28, at 3:00 PM on the front lawn of the Heart of Longmont. Bring your beloved pet to church to meet some other furry friends and to get a special blessing. Fancy HOL bandanas and pet snacks will be included!



# JUNE WOMEN'S RETREAT

Save the date! We are organizing a Women's Retreat for this summer in Breckenridge, CO.

The retreat will start Saturday, June 8, at 12:00 PM and will go until Sunday, June 9, at 1:00 PM.

Details are being finalized. Keep an eye on the Weekly Pulse and the next edition of the Heart Newsletter for more information.

Are you interested and have questions? [Please contact Tricia Grafelman.](#)



# HABITAT FOR HUMANITY BUILD DAY

We continue to value our relationship with the amazing non-profit organization, Habitat for Humanity. We will be participating in a H4H Build on Saturday, April 13. Sign up for the build day [by clicking here](#) or contact the church office for the registration URL.



# CHEF HEARTY HARD AT WORK THIS SPRING!

The busy-ness of modern life has made it difficult for some families to spend time in the kitchen or at the dining table together and the cost of food today also makes it difficult to consistently provide healthy meals. These are a couple reasons the Chef Hearty program has become such a welcome addition to the lives of our Wild Plum Head Start Families. The smiles on the children's faces when they receive their Chef Hearty Bags is adorable! But the smiles from their parents is even more telling.

If you can, please join us to build Healthy Meal Kits on the following Sundays: March 10 after worship, April 7 (as part of our BE Sunday activities), and May 12 after worship. Thank you for making this program a success!



# GIRL SCOUTS FILL THE BLESSING BOX

Girl Scout Troop 70274 noticed our Blessing Box had some open space while on the way to another service project and on their return brought some items to restock the pantry. Thank you GS Troop 70274 for this wonderful gift to our community!



# DAYS FOR GIRLS

For our continuing project of providing sanitary supplies for girls in developing countries, we are in need of Girls' Underpants in sizes 10, 12, and 14 in the brief style. We can't use the hip huggers or other styles! They must be 100% cotton - no blends. Please put them in the Days for Girls drawer in the Gallery. Thanks for helping us keep the girls in school!



## SATURDAY FAMILY MOVIES ARE BACK!

Our Saturday Family Movies are back again this spring! We would love for you to come to the Heart of Longmont and watch a few great movies with your family and our church family.

Movies will be shown on the second Saturday of the month at 2:00 PM in our Youth Room upstairs (room 205). Invite a neighbor or friend to join you! Popcorn and drinks will be provided.

March 9 — Wreck it Ralph (PG)  
 April 13 — Mulan (2020, PG-13)  
 May 11 — Zootopia (PG)



## BE THE CHURCH ON BE SUNDAY

by Tricia Grafelman

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord." —1 Peter 4:10-11

Last year on the Sunday after Easter, Heart of Longmont decided that instead of worshipping together inside our sanctuary, we wanted to worship together by serving others. Approximately 65 of us from the Heart of Longmont congregation went out to help five different non-profit organizations as well as some individuals from our own church family that needed a helping hand.

I was amazed at the number of talented people in our midst and equally amazed that they were willing to share their time and talent helping others. Did you know that we have among us amazing cooks, master gardeners, skilled painters, talented dry wallers, professional contractors, and (most importantly) an incredible number of people willing to

help out with whatever needs doing.

Tasks last year included spring cleaning, yard work, painting, casserole making, basic cleaning, organizing, building a compost bin, small home repairs, and even visiting folks who can't get out and about as much as they'd like to.

If this sounds like something you would like to be a part of this year, please join us on Sunday, April 7, from 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM to go out and BE the Church, BE a good neighbor and BE in Service! We need your helping hands. We will **NOT** be having a traditional worship service on that Sunday, but we will be together, serving others.

You will be able to sign up for this meaningful event beginning on March 10. Look for the sign up sheets in the Sanctuary. If you or anyone you know (a neighbor or friend) needs a little extra help with small home repairs, painting, yard work, gutter cleaning, or other light jobs, let [Tricia Grafelman](#) know and she will arrange to have someone come to your home.

## MUSICAL GUESTS SKIP & GAYN

Join us in worship on Sunday, April 14, at 10:00 AM with musical guests Skip and Gayn!



## CELEBRATING TEAMWORK

This February, some of our HOL staff gathered for a "sip and paint" to celebrate the new year and another year of working together. We know it's hard to believe, but our hard-working staff like to have a bit of fun now and then!



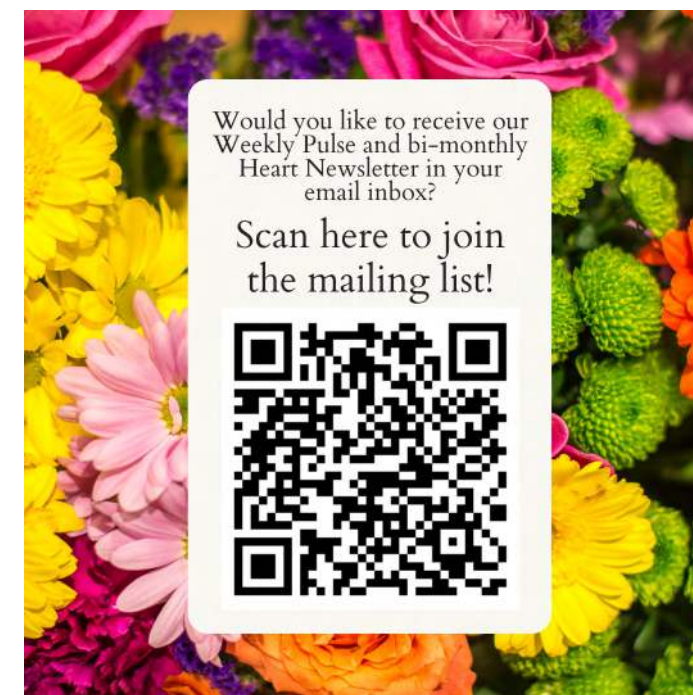
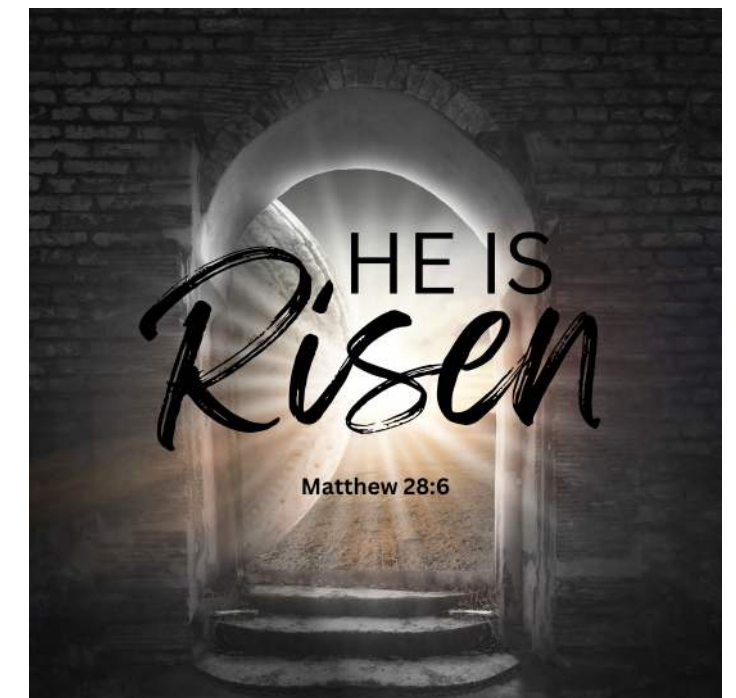
Looking for opportunities to serve at Heart of Longmont? There are many ways you can help out, all according to your interest and ability!

**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](mailto: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](mailto:digitalcontent@heartoflongmont.org)!

"DON'T BE ALARMED," HE SAID. "YOU ARE LOOKING FOR JESUS THE NAZARENE, WHO WAS CRUCIFIED. HE HAS RISEN! HE IS NOT HERE. SEE THE PLACE WHERE THEY LAID HIM. BUT GO, TELL HIS DISCIPLES AND PETER, 'HE IS GOING AHEAD OF YOU INTO GALILEE. THERE YOU WILL SEE HIM, JUST AS HE TOLD YOU.'"

MARK 16:6-7



# 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](http://www.youtube.com/HeartofLongmont)
- [www.facebook.com/HeartofLongmont](http://www.facebook.com/HeartofLongmont)
- [@heartoflongmont](https://www.instagram.com/heartoflongmont)
- [@heartoflongmont](https://twitter.com/heartoflongmont)
- [@heartoflongmont](https://www.tiktok.com/@heartoflongmont)

## HOL CARES ABOUT YOUR HEALTH

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

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



## CONTACT US

Heart of Longmont  
350 11th Ave  
Longmont, CO 80501  
303-776-3523  
[office@heartoflongmont.org](mailto:office@heartoflongmont.org)

The Heart of Longmont office is open Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM.

[www.heartoflongmont.org](http://www.heartoflongmont.org)

## OUR MISSION

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

Serving as the Heart of Longmont means:

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

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

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

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

We will work to protect God's creation.

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

For free and accessible local Longmont news, visit:

