



MAY/JUNE 2025

# A Note From The Pastor

Dear Friends of Heart of Longmont,

With a heart full of gratitude, I write this letter to share the news that my time as your pastor is coming to a close. I keep telling my friends and family that it is a fitting to end my years of parish ministry in the same town I came to know and love back in 1994. Together, we have witnessed God's faithfulness as our church has grown—not only in numbers but also in faith, love, and service.

When I first arrived at Heart of Longmont just a few short years ago, I could not have imagined the incredible journey God had in store for us. We have walked together through seasons of celebration and challenge, seeing God's hand at work in every step. I have watched as new ministries have flourished, as hearts have been transformed, and as our church has extended its reach to



touch lives beyond our walls. It has been a blessing to serve alongside you in advancing the Kingdom of God.

Though change is never easy, I trust in God's abundance and blessings and already know you will love Pastor Angie. Her enthusiasm and passion for ministry and love for Jesus is infectious. You will thrive under her courageous leadership and I cannot wait to cheer you all on from the sidelines.

I have no doubt that God will continue to do great things in and through you. My prayer is that you, in the words of Paul, "will keep pressing forward, remaining steadfast in faith, unified in love," and committed to the mission God has given you.

Even as I step into a new chapter, please know that you will always hold a special place in my heart. I carry with me cherished memories of worship, fellowship, and the deep connections we have formed. Thank you for your love, your prayers, and your partnership in ministry. I look forward to celebrating with you on June 8!

May the Lord bless and keep you always.

With love and gratitude,

— PASTOR CLAIRE





## An Unforgettable Art Experience

I never want to forget this workshop! The Art of Healing: A Guided Art Experience, led by Amber Wylde. Our church hosted the workshop on Sunday afternoon. We began with a salad luncheon then gathered together to enjoy what was a beautiful process for all of us.

Friendships were strengthened, vulnerabilities shared. There was laughter and tears and support and introspection. Amber's encouragement and her responses to each of us demonstrated her sensitivity and the special gift she has to help others on their personal journeys.

I don't want to give any of it away in case you get the chance to attend one of Amber's workshops!  
—Debbie Howard



## IN THIS ISSUE

- Pastor Claire's last Pastor's Note
- Heart of Community Campaign dates
- Youth and Children and Family Ministries Updates!
- Pridefest is coming!
- Gun Safe Giveaway
- Photos from Holy Week, Easter, and BE Sunday
- Articles from our community Partners

## Compassion Offerings

The compassion offering for May will be Safe Shelter of St. Vrain Valley. The nonprofit supports individuals and families who have suffered domestic violence, elder abuse, human trafficking and dating violence.

The organization is a catalyst for change, helping individuals and families break the cycle of violence and build brighter futures.

For June our compassion offering will go to Rocky Mountain Equality. This nonprofit works collaboratively to create connection and provide advocacy, education, research, cultural events and responsive programs and services that ensure LGBTQ+ individuals, families and communities thrive.

They work toward LGBTQ+ individuals and families being able to live authentically in an inclusive, equitable and compassionate world.



## Heart of Community - Dates to Remember!

Heart of Community is Heart of Longmont's capital campaign initiative.

**Sunday, April 6 – Gratitude Sunday** – During worship, we will be invited to consider our gratitude to God as we reflect on how God has impacted our lives through our church community.

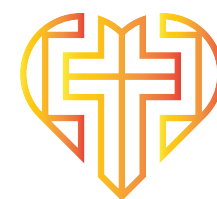
**Sunday, May 4 – Ministry Impact Sunday** – During worship, we will celebrate God's myriad ways of making a difference through Heart of Longmont UMC.

**Sunday, June 1 – Celebration Sunday** – We'll gather to celebrate Heart of Longmont's cherished past as we anticipate its next generation of life-changing ministry. We'll enjoy Aunt Alice's pastries, Einstein bagels, and coffee before worship. We'll hear a Heart of Community campaign update during worship and feast on post-worship burritos by Chill in a Box and Sweet Cow ice cream.

**Sunday, June 8 – Commitment Sunday** – A special time of commitment will be observed during worship.

**Sunday, June 15 – Announcement Sunday** – As the total of our three-year commitments is announced, we will give thanks for God's faithfulness and celebrate our church family's collective generosity in response to the Heart of Community campaign vision.

**Sunday, June 15 through Sunday, July 6 – The First Fruit Offering Season** - We will offer our First Fruit Offerings during June and July. All will be invited to make a first-portion gift of their three-year commitment. This will be the official start of the three-year contribution period.



HEART of Community

## Wesley Townhomes Construction Update



On April 10, a group from Heart of Longmont had the opportunity to tour the construction site of the Wesley Townhomes, a project being built on land generously donated by the church to support affordable housing in our community. Progress on the site has been impressive and is currently ahead of schedule.

Led by Brian from Krische Construction, the tour offered a firsthand look at the 2- and 3-bedroom townhomes in various stages of development. These all-electric units feature high-efficiency design elements,

including top-tier insulation—4 inches on interior walls and 6 inches on exterior walls. To ensure healthy air flow, each unit will include an ERV (Energy Recovery Ventilation) system. Solar energy may also be added in the future.

- **2-bedroom units:** 850 square feet
- **3-bedroom units:** 1,300 square feet



The townhomes are intended for families earning between \$30,000 and \$60,000 per year—approximately 30–40% of the area median income for Boulder County. All utilities will be included in the rent, and there is no time limit on how long families can stay.

Each household will also receive case management services through The Inn Between, the nonprofit organization overseeing the project. These services help families access education, job training, and pathways to greater stability.

The next tour opportunity will be offered in July—stay tuned for more details.

At a time when Longmont faces a significant housing shortage, it's incredibly meaningful to know that 11 families will soon have safe, stable, and affordable homes—right here on land rooted in love and faith.



## Heart of Community—Unity in Prayer

Commitment Sunday is June 8, 2025. We are inviting Heart of Longmont to pray each day of the week prior to Commitment Sunday at 12:12 p.m.

Romans 12:12 **“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.”**

We humbly ask God to lead our spiritual journey.  
We humbly ask blessings upon Pastor Claire and Joel.  
We humbly ask blessings upon Pastor Angie and Russ.  
We humbly pray that our financial decisions will glorify God by allowing us to expand our outreach and serve our congregation to the best of our ability.  
We humbly ask for guidance for our

current ministries.

We humbly express gratitude for our church staff and volunteers. We humbly pray that the spirit of generosity and sharing will grow through our congregation. We humbly pray for ourselves: “God, what do You want to do through me?”

God, thank you for these siblings in Christ and the blessings we receive through our life together. Continue to work in and through us as we care for one another, our church, our neighbors, and your amazing world. Help us to make a difference as you've made a difference in our lives as we continue to pray, **“God, what do You want to do through me?”**

AMEN.





## A Busy Summer Ahead for HOL Youth



by Emily Farrenkopf

As the school year winds down, our youth group is gearing up for an exciting summer full of connection, tradition, and meaningful moments!

We'll kick things off by welcoming our new sixth-grade students at our end-of-the-year celebration in May. It's always a joy to watch our group grow and to see the energy and new friendships that these younger students bring. We can't wait to get to know them better and help them feel right at home.

Summer wouldn't be complete without some of our favorite traditions — like heading to Sunset Pool for a day of swimming, laughter, and sunshine! This long standing tradition is one of the highlights of our summer, and we're excited to make more memories together.

We're also looking forward to a fun outing with other youth groups from across the Mountain Sky Conference. It's always inspiring to meet other young people who are growing in faith and building community just like we are.

In July, we'll embark on a weeklong mission trip to West Virginia, where we'll have the opportunity to serve a new community and deepen our understanding of what it means to live out



God's love. Mission trips are often some of the most transformative experiences for our youth, and we are excited to see how God will work through us.

Back home, we're hoping to squeeze in some game nights in our youth room, where we'll get to enjoy our brand-new Xbox — an addition that's sure to bring a lot of laughter and friendly competition!

This summer will also bring big changes to our church family, as you all know. We will regretfully celebrate Pastor Claire, whom we love so dearly, as she leaves to pursue her next adventure. Her leadership and care have been such a gift to all of us, and she will be deeply missed. We hope that wherever life takes her, she will remember she is so very loved. At the same time, we are excited to welcome Pastor Angie and look forward to getting to know her and sharing many new adventures together. We know that God has big plans for us to grow together.

Summer is a time to have fun, build friendships, and grow deeper in our faith. Thank you, Heart of Longmont, for your constant support of our youth. We can't wait to share all the wonderful moments this summer will bring!



## HOL Kids Corner

**A Message From the Children & Family Ministry Director...**

### BUTTERFLIES RELEASED

Those fluttering butterflies our kids released? They're such a vibrant picture of what the Easter season and spring is all about: new life and rebirth.

Encourage a conversation within your family. Think about the butterfly's journey. It starts as a caterpillar, then enters a chrysalis — a time of hidden transformation. What emerges is something beautiful and free, capable of soaring.

Let your kids share how this mirrors the spirit of Easter and spring, a time of transformation, of shedding what was and embracing new life. Just as the butterfly breaks free, this season reminds us of the incredible potential for growth and renewal in ourselves and the world around us.

Celebrate hope with butterflies as a symbol, a reminder that even after periods of darkness, vibrant new life can emerge. May this season continue to inspire your family with the promise of fresh starts and the beauty of transformation all around.

**SUMMER GATHERING TO COME**  
A gathering for children and families is in the works to celebrate summertime and enjoy some HOL community fun! Watch for more details to come in the July/August Heart Newsletter.

"May is when tiny seeds become beautiful flowers."

Wishing you joy in all that is blooming,

— HOLLY



## Transgender Identities Part 2: Stories, Struggles, and Solidarity

by Joan Edmonds

On April 6, Bryn Long (he/him) and Rachel Dwyier (she/her) continued the powerful conversation on the challenges facing transgender individuals today. By sharing their personal journeys—including both struggles and triumphs—they offered attendees a deeper understanding of the lived realities and resilience of transgender people.

The conversation addressed the alarming rise in anti-trans legislation across the country. Many of these bills are rooted in harmful rhetoric that falsely paints transgender individuals—especially youth—as threats or confused. Misinformation about gender-affirming care, bathroom usage, and even parental rights is fueling fear-based



laws that strip away dignity, autonomy, and safety.

In 2021 there were 143 anti-trans bills. 18 of those passed. By comparison so far this year there are 835 proposed bills in 49 states. 735 are active, 55 have passed and

45 have failed. Transgender people comprise only .06% of the population in the U.S.

Bryn and Rachel emphasized a simple but profound truth: transgender people want what everyone else wants—to be seen, respected, and allowed to live authentically. Hearing this directly from transgender voices made it clear how senseless and damaging much of the current legislation truly is.

Attendees left with a better understanding of what meaningful allyship looks like and how they can actively combat misinformation and challenge the narratives that oppress transgender communities. The event was not only educational, but deeply moving—and a reminder that change starts with listening, learning, and standing together.

## Longmont Pridefest 2025

**Saturday, June 7 | 3:30–8:00 PM**  
**Roosevelt Park, Longmont**

This year's Pridefest holds special meaning as anti-LGBTQ+ rhetoric continues to influence legislation across the country. Now more than ever, it's important to show up with love, visibility, and support.

Heart of Longmont will be there—standing in solidarity with the LGBTQ+ community. A dedicated group from the Mission Design Team is thoughtfully planning activities, swag, and informational materials for our booth.

We'll soon be sharing details about how to sign up to volunteer at the booth—whether to greet visitors, share about our church, or simply offer a warm smile.

If you already know you'd like to be involved, reach out to Amy Mann, Megan Orsburn, Rachel Dwyier, Nancy Rist or Diana McCoy to secure your spot. Let's put more of God's love into the world—together!



## Gun Safe Giveaway Event - June 28

by Joan Edmonds

The Gun Violence Reduction Team, comprised of people from the United Church of Christ and the Heart of Longmont is planning another community-focused gun safe giveaway on Friday, June 28.

For past events we have distributed 150 handgun safes and 150 car safes—a total effort that costs approximately \$16,000. Thanks to a local store providing the safes at cost, we're able to keep expenses

down.

To help fund the event, the Gun Violence Reduction Team has submitted a grant request to the State of Colorado. However, if awarded, the grant will be reimbursement-based, meaning we need to cover the upfront costs ourselves. Fortunately, the Longmont Community Foundation has offered to loan us the funds needed in advance.

If the grant does not come through, we will need to

identify other funding sources. We're grateful to have a \$5,000 matching opportunity in place for any donations received. Contributions can be made directly to the Longmont Community Foundation, designated specifically for the gun safe giveaway.

Additionally, the Heart of Longmont will hold a summer compassion offering to support this effort.

Safe gun storage saves lives—and your support helps make it possible.





# Holy Week and Easter at HOL

## “O LOVE DIVINE” CANTATA



## EASTER SUNDAY



## BE Sunday Serving Our Community

by Tricia Grafelman

Our Third Annual BE Service Sunday found just over 90 volunteers painting, raking, staining, cooking, planting, sanding, rototilling, digging, rebuilding, stapling, cleaning, visiting, hanging shelves, packing lunches or survival kits, laughing and connecting. We spent almost 270 collective hours serving our community in one morning. This is what Jesus calls us to do. According to an unattributed (and often misattributed) quote you may have seen on the internet: “Rivers do not drink their own water, trees do not eat their own fruit, the sun does not shine on itself and flowers do not spread their fragrance for themselves. Living for others is a rule of nature. We are all born

to help each other. No matter how difficult it is...life is good when you are happy, but much better when others are happy because of you.”

Service is in the DNA of our Heart of Longmont church. It was with happy hearts that we went out to be the hands and feet of Jesus. Instead of a traditional worship service, we did “workshop” together. We served many non-profit organizations including Recovery Cafe, Longmont Food Rescue, HOPE, Habitat for Humanity, Elevated Supports, Growing Gardens, three locations of the Wild Plum Head Start, The Wagon People, the City of Longmont Parks and Recreation department, as well as several individuals who needed a helping hand.





## Finance Update

Category	YTD 2025 Actual	YTD 2025 Budget	YTD 2024 Actual
Income	\$117,456	\$116,970	\$134,564
Expenses	\$148,233	\$141,760	\$128,709
Income less than Expenses (Deficit) (\$30,777)		(\$24,810)	\$5,855

### Overview:

We're off to a mixed start in 2025, but one that reflects both the growing pains and the promise of our church's expanding ministries.

While income began the year behind 2024 levels in January and February, we saw encouraging signs in March—congregational giving caught up to both budget and prior-year levels. This positive shift gives us confidence in the strength and consistency of your support.

Expenses for the first quarter came in above budget, primarily due to one-time costs related to the launch of our capital campaign. These are strategic investments in the future of Heart of Longmont. We also continued implementing key recommendations from our Long Range Planning process, including:

- Additional staffing hours for nursery, children and family ministry, and technology
- An increase in pastor compensation to bring us closer to market-appropriate levels

Our year-to-date deficit of \$30,777, while larger than budgeted, reflects both these strategic choices and timing differences in income. It's worth noting that 2024's income was elevated by a one-time \$16,658 grant from the Mountain Sky Conference's New Ministry Council, which is not present this year.

### Looking Ahead:

We remain confident in the financial health and trajectory of Heart of Longmont. As in recent years, we anticipate that income will gain momentum as the year progresses, and that expenses will stay within manageable bounds.

These early investments are essential to the vibrant and growing ministries we are building together. They reflect our shared vision of a church that nurtures faith, welcomes all, and serves our community in meaningful ways.

Thank you for your continued faithfulness and generosity. If you have any questions or would like more details, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Blessings,  
Rod Edmonds, Treasurer

## Facilities Design Team Update

Our church continues to be a vibrant and active place, hosting worship services, adult learning classes, and welcoming our partners at Wild Plum. With all this activity, our facilities are constantly in use—which means ongoing attention to maintenance, repairs, and scheduling.

Through March, we've been fortunate—no major system issues, and only a few manageable snow events (yes, I'm knocking on wood as I write this!). Our controllable facility expenses—including maintenance, utilities, cleaning, and supplies—are currently tracking well with the budget.

As spring arrives, we're beginning to plan our seasonal tasks: indoor spring cleaning, sprinkler system activation, gardening chores like weeding and pruning, and other small but important projects. We'll be scheduling work events to tackle these together—stay tuned for those dates.

Looking further ahead, we are preparing for potential capital campaign projects. Early priorities include resolving air conditioning issues in the Office and Education Wing, assessing needs in the parking lot, and developing a strategy for replacing the gallery roof.

With so much activity and planning underway, we continue to need helping hands. If you have skills in general repairs, gardening, or maintenance—or just a willingness to lend a hand occasionally—we'd love to have you join us. Many hands make light work, and even a little help goes a long way in keeping our church safe, welcoming, and ready for all who come through its doors.

Please reach out to the Facilities Design Team if you're interested in helping or learning more.



United Women in Faith

## HOL United Women in Faith Updates

We welcome ALL women of The Heart to join us for any of our activities! We are a community of women whose purpose is to know God, to develop a creative and supportive fellowship, and to expand our concept of mission. All women who join us turn faith, hope, and love into action on behalf of women, children, and youth around the world.

We support 5 small fellowship groups that meet on various days. The newest group for young women started just last month! We make a Pledge to Missions every year and serving meals to outside groups and conducting our annual Holiday Fair in November supports our annual pledge.

Coming up on June 22, we invite ALL women and men of the church to join us after church service for a quick luncheon and an exciting time of learning more about Longmont's climate and the changes we have experienced through the years. Our own Dick Elder will be sharing what he has been learning about Longmont's climate. You won't want to miss this fun time right after church!


For more information contact Marty Allison.



**Summer Kickoff Salad Supper**

**Monday, May 12 at 6:00 PM**  
in the HOL Gallery and Courtyard

A complimentary salad supper for all women of the church for fellowship sponsored by Lydia Circle, UWF of HOL

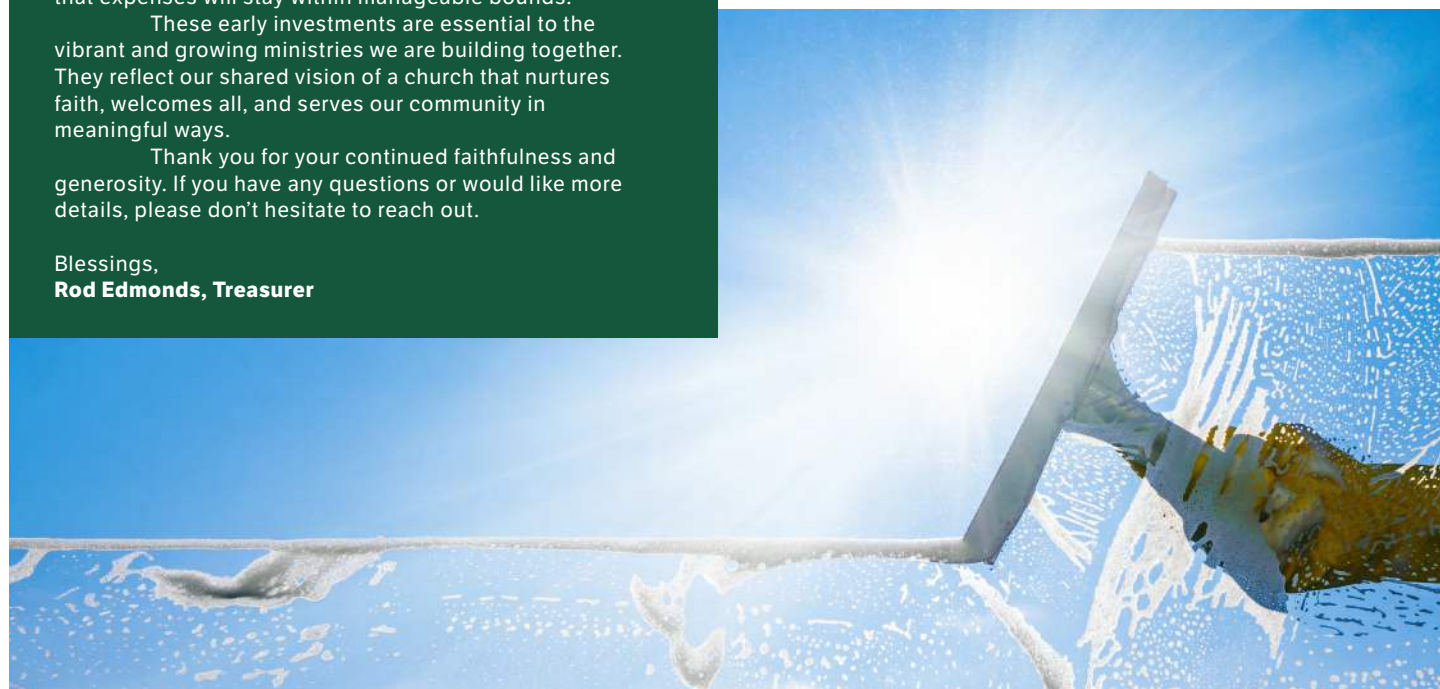


HOL UWF presents

**A Brief History of Colorado's Climate Change**

Luncheon followed by a presentation by Dick Elder (National Weather Service, retired)

**Sunday, June 22**



**All Church Garage Sale 2025**

June 27 & June 28  
8AM - 2PM

Heart of Longmont  
350 11th Ave  
Longmont

Check the Weekly Pulse for more information & updates!



## Annual Conference Information

from Karl Scott

This year's Annual Conference gathering requires votes that impact our worldwide connection, and we want you to be informed and involved. Your participation matters!

At the General Conference 2020/2024 meeting, four pieces of legislation passed that would change the denomination's constitution. In order for these changes to go into effect, the legislation must be ratified by the collective votes of annual and central conferences of the UMC. Throughout 2025, all central and annual conferences will be asked to vote on these important topics at their Annual Conference meetings.

The four pieces for ratification are:

- Article IV - Protecting membership right for individuals
- Article V - The UMC's stance against racism
- Paragraph 35 - Education requirements for Licensed Local Pastors voting eligibility
- Regionalization - Changing the structure of the UMC to create equity across the worldwide church

To pass these four pieces two-thirds aggregate votes must be yes. That means two-thirds of all votes cast across the Worldwide UMC conferences.

If you would like to be an equalization Lay Delegate (as to make one clergy vote for one lay delegate vote even out) you need to contact the Mountain Sky District Office to be considered as a voting equalization member. This happens when a church doesn't have a lay delegate attending and the clergy attends.

[For more information on these pieces of legislation and updates on ratification, visit the Mountain Sky Ratification webpage.](#)

The MSC Ratification Team has prepared two more zoom meetings to explain ratification and why each of the four votes matters for the local church, for the conference, and for the worldwide church. You are invited to attend one or all of these zoom gatherings:

- Thursday, May 1, 3:00-4:30pm
- Saturday, May 17, 9:00-10:30am

[Save the dates! Registration for zoom meetings is on the Ratification webpage.](#)

### Who should attend?

- Every clergy person in connection with our conference
- One elected lay member from each local church (per appointed clergy person)
- All retired clergy
- Lay equalization members - these persons are elected by their district and help equalize the number of clergy and laity at the annual conference session - contact your district office if you would like to be considered as a voting equalization member
- Guests - any spouses, partners, and friends of the Mountain Sky Conference who are not voting members can register in this category to observe, participate in meals, or serve in a volunteer capacity

### Registration Considerations

In response to the needs of the vast geography of Mountain Sky, we continue to work on ways to alleviate costs associated with attending Annual Conference. All clergy are to set aside funds in their clergy compensation package for the costs of this meeting. Each local church is asked to provide for their lay member to attend annual conference; however, we know some do not have the funds to do this. We also recognize that retired clergy and extension ministers are paying for all costs out of pocket to attend. In light of these considerations, we are able to lower costs in some registration categories:

- Voting Clergy \$315
- Voting Lay Members \$215
- Voting Lay Equalization Members \$43 (with discount code through your district office)
- Voting Youth and Young Adults (registration is covered in full with discount code)

**If you have questions, please contact Karl Scott, your lay delegate.** He will do his best to get your questions answered.



## Help Needed for Habitat for Humanity Build Day and Welcome Crew



Heart of Longmont has served with Habitat for Humanity for many years. In that time, we have had many people helping to swing a hammer, hang dry wall, paint walls, and raise up walls. Some years, only a handful could make it out on a Saturday Build Day to help out, and other years Heart of Longmont members supplied lunch to those who were working. In every case, we never felt the burden of work because we were talking and laughing and learning together. Many hands make light work!

This year we are hoping for 10 people to serve together on Saturday, May 17 from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM. We are also looking for folks who will consider joining our "Welcome Crew" for one of the new homeowners.

What does being on the Welcome Crew entail? We will be doing a post-construction final clean of the home, donate household items for the new homeowner, and help host the dedication by providing a meal, dessert, snacks, and drinks on the

day the homeowner moves into their new home. Imagine the joy you will see on the new homeowners' faces!

Even if you are unable to participate on the actual Welcome Day, we will be collecting household items, including: first aid kits, welcome mats, flashlights, batteries, broom/dustpan, trash bags, paper products, sponges, fire extinguisher, extension cords, surge protectors, lockbox, kitchen or bath storage, utensils or towels, houseplants, welcome baskets, and gift cards. Check the Connection Center for more details or reach out to Tricia Grafelman with your questions.

Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities, and hope. This is similar to HOL's mission statement: Putting more of God's love into the world.

Interested in helping out on May 17? [Click here to sign up](#) or use the QR



## From Longmont Food Rescue

Starting in May 2025, LFR will begin hosting WEEKLY free food distributions at 1pm EVERY Sunday! (Please note: this is an hour later than our previous start time of 12pm)

- Odd weeks (1st, 3rd, 5th Sundays of each month) will be our walk-up distribution at Collyer Park
- Even weeks (2nd & 4th Sundays of each month) will be our drive-up distribution at the Longmont YMCA parking lot

### Weekly Free Food Distributions



**Collyer Park**  
Odd weeks (1st, 3rd, 5th)



**Sundays @ 1pm**



**YMCA**  
Even weeks (2nd & 4th)



## From OUR Center

### By The Numbers...Empty Bowls 2025!

We netted a record amount of over \$57,000 for our Community Café/ Hot Meal Program. We anticipate serving 65,000 meals in 2025! Thank you to our wonderful community for your support and for all the new donors who found us this year!

- 1146 bowls
- 115 auction items
- 121 gallons of soup
- 630 donors, 30% (188) new donors to OUR Center
- 816 tickets sold
- 835 gifts for the event
- 101 volunteers helped with 208 hours of work



### OUR Center Wishlist Needs

- Canned Chicken
- Canned Fruit (Peaches, Pineapple, Oranges)
- Canned Tomato Paste and Sauce
- Canned Tuna
- Coffee
- Dry Pasta

- Diapers
- Dried Black Beans
- Dry Pinto Beans
- Menstrual Health Products
- Peanut Butter
- White & Brown Rice

## From El Comité De Longmont



Do you remember the church service following the January inauguration, when the Right Rev. Mariann Budde asked incoming administration officials to have mercy?

There have been so many headlines since then that it may seem like it was a year ago, and not less than three months ago.

Her specific words to the incoming president were: "You have felt the providential hand of a loving God. In the name of our God, I ask

you to have mercy upon the people in our country who are scared now."

Who knew that a request for mercy could cause such a stink?

There was so much power in her simple request. Could you not feel her immovable commitment to her belief in what it means to be Christian? In what is right and what is wrong?

She said later, after the kerfuffle about her service, that she wouldn't apologize for asking for mercy.

Conviction like hers is so rarely on display – and so powerful. I keep thinking to myself: **this. We need more of this.**

She is my shero and has been a source of inspiration over and over these past couple months. How, I wonder, could I be as clear about my own guiding principles and beliefs? I want them articulated. I want to be able to print them out and tape them above my desk, on my bathroom mirror, on my dashboard. Make them my phone screen; tattoo them on my hand.

I want those principles to guide me as we navigate this insanely unstable landscape; and when I speak them, I want them to connect me as deeply into the earth's core as Rev. Budde's did on January 20.

I want this because navigating rapid changes sometimes feels like driving in a snowstorm; we can only move as far forward as our visibility allows. I keep asking: are we still on the road? There are 100 things asking for my attention every day right now, and I want that undeniable clarity to help me know how to

navigate toward the best possible benefit and safety of El Comité participants.

So, I've been pondering this, and **here are some of the principles keeping me on the road and in the right direction now:**

- I profoundly believe in inalienable rights, as first laid out in the Declaration of Independence, and that these fundamental rights belong to everybody, as given by God, regardless of immigration status.
- I believe in our Constitution and the rights it promises.
- I believe in due process and equal protection, as laid out in the 14th Amendment to our Constitution, and redemption, made possible through the struggles of Martin Luther King, Jr., Dolores Huerta, Cesar Chavez and so many other civil rights leaders, whose efforts helped to make the ideals of the Constitution real.
- I believe that, in our community, everyone belongs. We are meant to welcome strangers – because every single person is valuable. "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for some have entertained angels without knowing it." Period.
- I believe in fairness, good governance, and transparency, at the federal, state and local levels. Processes should be trustworthy, systems should work for all, and they should exist to make residents' lives better, not worse.

I'm still working out a plan – we all are. And a plan may be impossible given things are changing so rapidly, and visibility is low. But this is some of what I keep coming back to in this storm. This is what helps me steer what we are planning at El Comité for our participants. **What helps steer you?**

Sincerely,  
Lisa Moreno

From El Comité's email newsletter. If you want to receive their newsletter and support their work, visit El Comité's website [elcomitedelongmont.org](http://elcomitedelongmont.org) to sign up. *Know your rights.*

## From Rocky Mountain Equality



The following are from Rocky Mountain Equality's newsletter and blog. If you want to receive their newsletter, visit [rmequality.org](http://rmequality.org) to sign up. If you or loved one are LGBTQIA+ and need resources, visit <https://www.rmequality.org/resources> and reach out. Remember that you matter.

**FREE WEEKLY IN-PERSON DROP-IN LGBTQ+ YOUTH GROUPS**

**LGBTQ+ Middle School Group (Ages 11-14)**  
Mondays 5pm - 7pm  
Equality Center of the Rocky mountains (3340 Mitchel Ln. Boulder, CO)

**LGBTQ+ High School Group (Ages 14-18)**  
Wednesdays 5pm - 7pm  
Equality Center of the Rocky mountains (3340 Mitchel Ln. Boulder, CO)

**Queer and Trans Youth Group (Ages 12 - 18)**  
Thursdays - 4:30pm - 6:30pm  
Longmont youth center, meet at 1200 Lashley St, Longmont, CO 80504 (Lashley Street Center)

bit.ly/4e8gpwl

Contact info: Rouxan (they/he), Rouxan@rmequality.org | (303) 591-1057

**FREE WEEKLY IN-PERSON DROP-IN NOCO NAUTILUS YOUTH GROUP**

**Old Town Library (201 Peterson St, Fort Collins, CO 80524)**  
Thursdays 5:30pm - 7:30pm  
Open to all youth ages 12 -18

Our groups are spaces where everyone can feel safe. Teens can meet other teens, make friends, build community, and connect with trained facilitators who are there to support them and offer resources.

Contact Cecil (they) for information: cecil@rmequality.org | 303-505-0746

## HEALTHCARE UNDER SIEGE: HOW FEDERAL CHANGES THREATEN ACCESS FOR MILLIONS

by Emily Stout (she) & Micah Caswell (they)

In January 2025, President Donald Trump returned to the White House and wasted no time enacting sweeping federal policies that are putting the healthcare of millions of Americans in jeopardy (79.3 million enrolled in Medicaid, 20.2 million with ACA marketplace coverage). These changes aren't just numbers on a budget sheet—they have real consequences for real people. People of color, individuals with disabilities, low-income families, LGBTQ+ communities, and older Americans are facing new and devastating barriers to the care they need to survive.

### The Attack on Medicaid

One of the most catastrophic blows comes in the form of an \$800 billion cut to Medicaid over the next decade. This shift prioritizes \$4.5 trillion in tax breaks and defense spending over the lives of 79 million Americans who depend on Medicaid for their health and well-being. This cut, narrowly pushed through a Republican-led House, will mean millions losing healthcare, hospitals shutting down, and critical services vanishing overnight.

For people living with HIV/AIDS, these cuts could be fatal. Many rely on Medicaid for life-saving antiretroviral treatments, and disruptions in care don't just impact individual health—they increase transmission rates, worsening an



already dire public health crisis. States with large Medicaid populations, like California and Texas, are bracing for the worst, as hospitals in underserved areas face closures and vital programs disappear.

### Targeting Transgender Healthcare

In one of the most aggressive attacks on healthcare rights, Trump signed an executive order in January banning gender-affirming care for minors nationwide. This sweeping directive cuts federal funding for transition-related healthcare and threatens hospitals that provide these services.

This is about more than just transgender youth—this is about the government inserting itself into personal, medical decisions that should be made between doctors, patients, and families. It sets a terrifying precedent that could endanger specialized care for countless other individuals, including those living with HIV/AIDS who depend on affirming providers. This kind of federal overreach chips away at all of our medical freedoms,

paving the way for further restrictions on reproductive healthcare and other essential services.

### Dismantling the Affordable Care Act

The administration is also quietly gutting the Affordable Care Act (ACA), rolling back executive orders that expanded enrollment periods and funding for outreach programs. Millions of low-income families, who rely on ACA marketplaces for affordable insurance, are now at risk of being left uninsured.

This rollback disproportionately affects communities of color, who already face systemic barriers to employer-sponsored healthcare. And for those with pre-existing conditions, including HIV/AIDS, this could mean a return to higher premiums, denied coverage, and impossible choices between paying for rent or medication. Proposed cuts to the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program and federal HIV prevention programs add yet another layer of risk, threatening treatment and access to preventative care for some of the most vulnerable among us.

### The War on Health Equity and Civil Rights

As if stripping away healthcare wasn't enough, the administration is dismantling efforts to address racial and social disparities in medicine. In February 2025, Trump signed an executive order disbanding a federal health equity advisory panel dedicated to improving care for marginalized



communities, calling it “unnecessary.”

This move undermines programs tackling maternal mortality among Black women, disability-friendly medical services, and healthcare initiatives supporting LGBTQ+ individuals. People living with HIV/AIDS face increasing stigma and dwindling support as federal agencies dismantle programs aimed at reducing healthcare disparities. This is an assault on civil rights and an open invitation for discrimination to thrive.

Meanwhile, immigrant communities are being pushed out of the healthcare system altogether. The federal government’s aggressive deportation policies have turned hospitals and clinics into places of fear, discouraging undocumented people from seeking even the most basic medical care. Public health experts warn that this kind of exclusion could lead to the unchecked spread of preventable diseases, putting entire communities at risk.

**Dangerous Rhetoric on Race and Vaccines**

The Trump administration’s assault on healthcare extends beyond policy changes with the nomination of Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

(RFK Jr.) as Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS). Known for his anti-vaccine stance and propagation of medical racism conspiracy theories, RFK Jr.’s appointment endangers the progress made in addressing healthcare inequities.

He has targeted Black Americans with anti-vaccine propaganda, suggesting that COVID-19 vaccination efforts are akin to medical experiments on Black people. In March 2021, his organization, Children’s Health Defense, released an anti-vaccine video titled “Medical Racism: The New Apartheid,” promoting COVID-19 conspiracy theories and discouraging vaccination among Black communities.

This rhetoric is misleading and dangerous, as it exploits historical efforts to spread misinformation. Such tactics threaten to widen existing health disparities by discouraging vaccination in communities already disproportionately affected by diseases like COVID-19.

RFK Jr.’s appointment signals a troubling shift in federal health policy. His influence could lead to decreased vaccination rates, resulting in outbreaks of preventable diseases that disproportionately

impact marginalized communities. This development underscores the administration’s disregard for health equity and civil rights, further marginalizing communities that have historically faced systemic barriers to care.

**The Fight for Healthcare Justice**

This moment demands action. Healthcare is not a privilege; it is a fundamental right. Every single person deserves access to the care they need to live a full, healthy life, regardless of their income, identity, or background.

The Trump administration’s policies put the health and well-being of millions of Americans at risk, but history has shown us that people fighting together can create change. Now is the time to organize, to advocate, and to demand that our leaders protect the most vulnerable among us.

The stakes are too high, and the lives of our neighbors, friends, and loved ones are on the line. This is a call to action—because when healthcare is under siege, we all have a responsibility to stand up and push back.

**30 FAITH LEADERS SIGN A PUBLIC LETTER CONDEMNING TRUMP EXECUTIVE ORDER**

As faith leaders, we are committed to upholding the principles of love, justice, and inclusivity that form the foundation of our diverse religious traditions. In light of President Trump’s recent executive order, “Eradicating Anti-Christian Bias,” we feel compelled to address the implications of this directive and affirm the inherent dignity of all individuals, including our transgender siblings in faith.

The executive order emphasizes the protection of religious freedoms and the elimination of anti-Christian bias within government institutions. While safeguarding religious liberty is essential, we must ensure that such measures do not inadvertently marginalize or exclude other vulnerable communities. Notably, the order criticizes previous policies that sought to protect individuals based on sexual orientation and gender identity, framing them as antagonistic to Christian beliefs. This perspective risks perpetuating misunderstandings and fostering division within our communities.

We recognize that transgender individuals can be people of faith, actively participating in and contributing to our strong religious communities. Many transgender people are involved in their faith communities, and we strive to welcome them with love and support. Their journeys of faith are as personal and authentic as those of any other believer.

**SIGNED:**

- |  |  |   |  |   |   |
|--|--|---|--|---|---|
| Rev. David Schwartz<br>Unitarian Universalist<br>Church of Boulder | Rev. Eric Banner<br>First Universalist<br>Church of Denver<br>Marissa Seuc-Hester<br>Christ the Servant<br>Lutheran Church | Chad Kohlmeyer<br>Atonement Lutheran<br>Church                | Rev. Norman Jackson<br>Episcopal Diocese of<br>Colorado<br>Pastor Michael Mather<br>First United Methodist<br>Church | Pastor Dwight Scull<br>Living Light of Peace<br>Church                      | Pastor Nicole Garcia<br>Epiphany Lutheran<br>Church                   |
| Rev. Sean Neil-Barron<br>Foothills Unitarian<br>Church             | Pastor Katie Chullino<br>Bethlehem Lutheran<br>Church  | Pastor Jackie Hibbard<br>Community United<br>Church of Christ | Pastor Stephanie Lord<br>Christ the Servant<br>Lutheran Church   | Pastor Rebecca Scull<br>Living Light of Peace<br>Church                     | Interim Pastor Ann<br>Rosewall<br>First Mennonite Church<br>of Denver |
| Rev. Andrew Daugherty<br>Pine Street Church                        | Pastor Ryan Howell<br>Crossroads Church  | Minister Emeritus<br>Roger Paine<br>The First Parish          | Pastor Pamela Challis<br>Trinity Lutheran Church   | Rev. Amelia Dress<br>Longmont United<br>Church of Christ                    | Pastor Jessica Gregory<br>Northminster<br>Presbyterian Church         |
| Pastor Nicole Lamarche<br>Community United<br>Church of Christ     | Pastor Andi Fox<br>United Church of<br>Broomfield  | Pastor Randy Spaulding<br>Boulder Mennonite<br>Church         | Rev. Karen Cox<br>Mennonite Church USA   | Rev. Vernon Rempel<br>Mountain Community<br>Mennonite Church                | Pastor Betty Landis<br>Saint Stephen, ELCA                            |
|  | Kathy Escobar<br>The Refuge  | Rev. Melissa Douaire<br>Whole Person<br>Conversations         | Jeni Umble<br>Reverend   | Pastor Teri Harroun<br>Light of Christ,<br>Ecumenical Catholic<br>Communion |   |

Our teachings call us to love our neighbors unconditionally and to seek justice for the marginalized (Leviticus 19.18; Matthew 22.37-39; Romans 13.10; Surah An-Nisa 4.36). The Bible, for instance, emphasizes the inherent worth of every individual, created in the image of God (Genesis 1.26-27; Psalm 139.13-14; Matthew 10.29-31; Surah Al-Isra 17.70). This divine image transcends gender and calls us to affirm the full inclusion of transgender people in our religious traditions.

We must be vigilant against interpretations of religious freedom that serve to justify discrimination or exclusion. Policies and efforts like this executive order that single out specific groups under the guise of protecting religious beliefs, undermine the very freedoms they purport to defend.

In this spirit, we call upon our fellow faith leaders, policymakers, and community members to work with us to create inclusive spaces where all people, regardless of gender identity or expression, can worship, serve, and thrive. Our faiths encourage us to see and love the diversity of God’s creations.

By affirming the humanity and faith of transgender individuals, we not only honor their experiences but also enrich our communities and uphold the true essence of religious freedom.

**CRISIS RESOURCES**

**THE NATIONAL SUICIDE HOTLINE**

1-800-SUICIDE (1-800-784-2433) or visit [suicide.org](http://suicide.org)

**TRANS LIFELINE**

877-565-8860  
Peer support service run by trans people, for trans and questioning callers.  
Available 7am – 1am PT / 10am – 4am ET

**COLORADO CRISIS SERVICES**

844-493-TALK (844-493-8255) or text HELLO to 7417  
Available 24/7.  
24/7 Walk-In Center at 3180 Airport Road Boulder, CO 80301  
Find another walk-in crisis center: [www.ColoradoCrisisServices.org](http://www.ColoradoCrisisServices.org)

**TREVORLIFELINE**

866-488-7386  
A crisis intervention and suicide prevention phone service for LGBTQ+ young people under 25, available 24/7.

**TREVOREX**

Text “START” to 678678. Standard text messaging rates apply.  
A crisis intervention and suicide prevention phone service for LGBTQ young people under 25.  
Available Monday through Friday between 3pm –10pm ET / Noon – 7pm PT

**NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE**

Call 988  
The Lifeline provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones, and best practices for professionals. También en español.

**VETERANS HELPLINE**

1-844-493-8255  
You’re not alone—the Veterans Crisis Line is here for you. You don’t have to be enrolled in VA benefits or health care to call.



If you are struggling or in crisis, please contact one of the above crisis lines or reach out to one of our community partners for help. We want you to be here for many years to come. **You matter. You are loved.**

*We Are A Community That Prays*  
Send your prayer requests to [prayers@heartoflongmont.org](mailto:prayers@heartoflongmont.org)

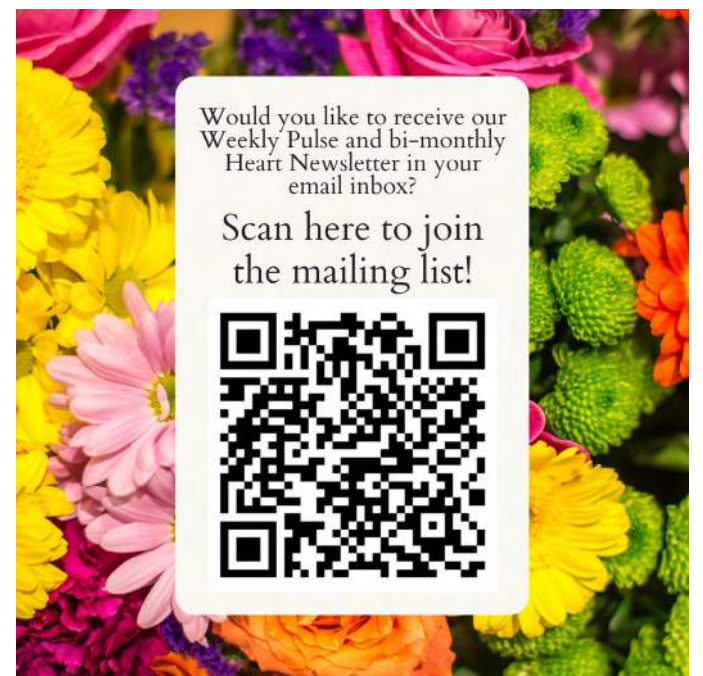
*Submissions?*  
Do you have a worshipful moment, memorable experience, story, photo, or other interesting Heart of Longmont tale you’d like to share with our community? Send them to [digitalcontent@heartoflongmont.org](mailto:digitalcontent@heartoflongmont.org)!

*From  
Recovery  
Café  
Longmont*

Recovery Café Longmont is a community of refuge and healing for people in recovery. Recovery Café Longmont supports adults as they rebuild their lives and recover from substance and/or alcohol use disorder, mental health challenges, trauma, and other life challenges. They strive to stand in the gap between crisis and stability by fostering community-building and life-empowerment.

If you or a loved one need help and support in recovery, contact Recovery Café at [info@recoverycafelongmont.org](mailto:info@recoverycafelongmont.org) or 720-815-2885

Visit Recovery Café’s website [recoverycafelongmont.org](http://recoverycafelongmont.org) for information on how to support their work, information on becoming a member, and other resources.





# 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.