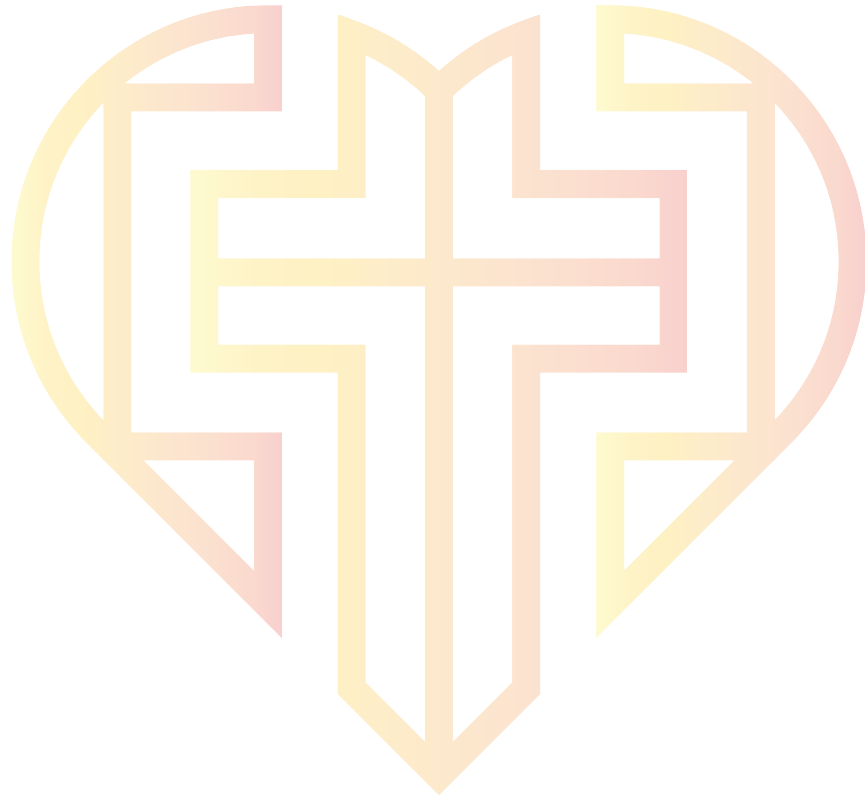




HEART of
Community
CAMPAIGN GUIDE



HEART^{of}
Community



A Letter from the Pastor

As I reflect on the mission and ministry of Heart of Longmont, I am reminded that we are more than just a building—we are a family, a beacon of hope, and the heart of our community. For generations, our church has stood as a place of worship, service, and fellowship, shaping lives and bringing people closer to God. Today, we are called to ensure that this sacred mission continues for generations to come.

With great excitement and faith, I invite you to join us in our **Heart of Community** Capital Campaign. This initiative is not merely about bricks and mortar, but also about strengthening our foundation for ministry. Our goal is to upgrade and update our facility, so that we may continue to be a place of spiritual growth and refuge for all.

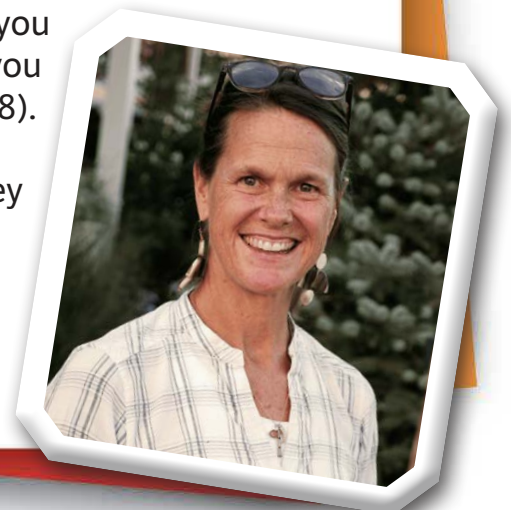
Throughout Scripture, we see how God’s people have come together to build and sustain places of worship. In Exodus, the Israelites joyfully brought offerings to construct the Tabernacle (Exodus 35:29). Likewise, in Nehemiah, we see a community united in rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem, each contributing their time, talent, and treasure (Nehemiah 4:6). Today, we are given a similar opportunity—to build for the future, to invest in the next generation, and to ensure that our church remains in the heart of the Longmont community.

I ask you to prayerfully consider how you can be part of this mission. Whether through financial gifts, prayers, or service, every contribution is a testimony of faith and love. Together, we can create a lasting legacy that reflects the heart of Christ in our community.

Let us step forward in faith, knowing that “God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work” (2 Corinthians 9:8). Thank you for your unwavering dedication and generosity. May God bless and guide us as we embark on this journey together.

With gratitude,
Pastor Claire

Rev. Claire McNulty-Drewes





THE HISTORIC HEART

In 1871, the first sermon in Longmont was delivered by a Methodist minister. In the same year, the Longmont Methodist Church was organized, making it the oldest church in continuous service of the Longmont community. 150 years and four buildings later, Heart of Longmont United Methodist Church has continued to be a cornerstone of faith, hope, and love in that *same* community. We are more than a church—**we are a community of faith**, growing in discipleship and extending God’s love to all who walk through our doors and beyond.

Our church’s commitment to community is deeply rooted in its history and mission. We have always sought to address the needs of our neighbors with creativity, compassion, and purpose. From our Justice Seekers group and United Women in Faith circles to our focus on inclusion and advocacy for the LGBTQIA+ community, **we actively work to build a better, more just world**. Through Faith and Reason hybrid gatherings, online worship, and the Adventurers program, we offer spaces for connection and spiritual growth that **meet people where they are**.

Our dedication to children and youth is unwavering. For over 50 years, we have hosted Wild Plum — the longest-running program of its kind in the state — to serve children from low-income families. While others struggled post-COVID, our church emerged with a **thriving youth ministry** and an exciting opportunity to rebuild our children’s ministry, **ensuring the next generation is nurtured in faith and community**.

Our commitment to affordable housing began decades ago with the establishment of St. Vrain Manor, an early effort to provide secure, **low-cost housing for seniors**. That legacy continues today with the donation of nearly an acre of land for the Wesley Townhomes project, which will provide **11 affordable housing units for Longmont families** at or below 40% of the Area Median Income. These initiatives demonstrate our long-standing mission of being a church that actively meets the needs of our neighbors. **The mission of being the Heart of Community**.



A Note from Our Chairperson

It is an honor to serve as Chairperson for our capital campaign, ***The Heart of Community; Building Community, Growing Together***. This campaign represents a pivotal moment in the life of our church—an opportunity to strengthen our ministries, invest in our facilities, and ensure that Heart of Longmont remains a beacon of faith, service, and community for generations to come.

Our church has always been a place of **welcome, growth, and impact**. Through this campaign, we are not just addressing the practical needs of our building—we are **laying the foundation for the future of our mission**. Whether it's through worship, outreach, or fellowship, our church continues to be a vital part of so many lives, and this effort will allow us to expand that impact even further.

As you review this campaign guide, I invite you to reflect on what Heart of Longmont means to you. This is not just a fundraising effort—it is a **faith journey** where each of us has the opportunity to prayerfully consider how we can participate. Every gift, no matter the size, is a testament to our shared commitment to **God's work in this place**.

I am deeply grateful for each of you and the role you play in our church family. I look forward to walking this journey together, celebrating our progress, and witnessing the incredible ways God will move through this campaign. If you have any questions or would like to discuss ways to get involved, please don't hesitate to reach out.

With gratitude and faith,
Rod Edmonds

Rod Edmonds





CAMPAIGN LEADERSHIP

Pastor:

Claire McNulty-Drewes

Chairperson:

Rod Edmonds

Strategists:

Cesie Delve Scheuermann

Don Smith

Leadership:

Shirley Andrews-Sharer

Tim Howard

Francine Berkey

Paul Johnston

Haleigh Bird

Jean Malchow

Virginia Clingan

Becca Marsing

Joan Edmonds

Jake Marsing

Emily Farrenkopf

Holly Milne

Tricia Grafelman

Karl Scott

John Grafelman

Edy-Kay Ward

Debbie Howard

Keith Watson

Peg Howard

Mary Ann Watson



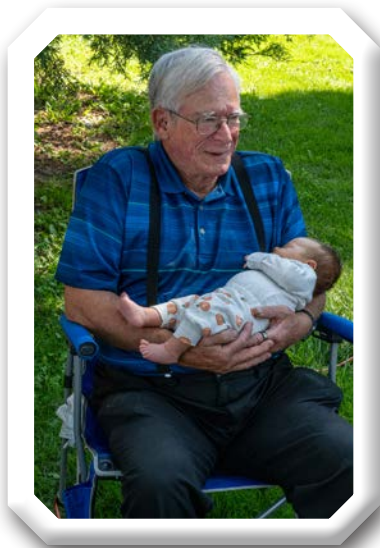
THE GROWING HEART

As our church continues to grow, so do the opportunities to serve. However, aging facilities and limited resources present challenges to fully realizing our mission. To ensure that we can continue to serve as a hub of faith, connection, and outreach, we must invest in our infrastructure, expand our ministries, and create spaces that reflect our commitment to being a place of welcome and care for all.

As an output of our long-range planning work in 2024, it was made clear that we need to stabilize and renew our facility. We engaged a professional consultant to assess our facilities. The facility assessment identified a need for a reserve of \$1,750,000, plus a \$20,000 per year reserve contribution thereafter to address our facility needs over the next 20 years. This assessment identified the most urgent facility needs as the building's air conditioning and parking lot, and the costs to update our exterior, the Gallery, and Wesley Hall, totaling \$850,000 over the next five years.

We also identified a need to invest in more staff hours to support growing children, youth and adult ministries, and the growing demands for community missional initiatives.





Creating a Place for All

Communities are full of different types of people with different accessibility needs. We want to create a place where all can gather. This means renovating kitchens and bathrooms to ensure safe, accesible, and welcoming spaces for gatherings and ministries. It also means investing in the continuously evolving world of technology to enhance worship, education, and outreach. **We want Heart of Longmont to be a vibrant, functional space where all feel welcome and valued.**

Expanding Our Reach

We already have thriving connections with service groups in Longmont, but **we want to do more.** We want to **enhance** community outreach with initiatives like the Blessing Box and our community refrigerator to address food scarcity; **deepen** partnerships with Wild Plum and other local organizations to serve families and individuals in need; **support** and **expand** opportunities like the El Comite Health Fair, Chef Hearty bags, and community performances and events. To be the heart of community, Heart of Longmont will be **a church that actively meets the needs of its neighbors with tangible love and care.**

Strengthening Discipleship

Connection is vital to a communitiy. Heart of Longmont serves as a place to gather with your neighbors, and we don't want this space to ever be in question. With this campaign, we hope to **develop robust programs** and spaces for children, youth, and families to **grow in faith and connection.** We have the incredible blessing of having five or more generations represented in this building every single week. We will **foster those intergenerational relationships** that deepen community bonds and discipleship. **Together, we can create a thriving faith community where spiritual growth flourishes, and people can find God's purpose for their lives.**

Caring for Our Facilities

To continue our mission, our building needs to operate efficiently and effectively. There are multiple critical updates that need to be done, including roofing, HVAC repairs, and other essential maintainance. **This campaign can ensure that Heart of Longmont's facilities are equipped to serve our congregation and community today, and for generations to come.**



THE BEATING HEART

Why Community Matters

At Heart of Longmont, we believe that **community is more than a value—it is our calling.** From welcoming neighbors during difficult times to creating spaces for shared joy and service, we live out our mission to be the hands and feet of Christ. Through this campaign, we will build stronger connections within our church family; serve as a beacon of hope for our neighbors; and cement our role as a vital partner in Longmont’s future.





COST BREAKDOWN BY AREA

List of Identified Needs	Estimated Cost
Gallery Roof Replacement	\$125,000
Parking Lot & East Entrance Curb	\$265,000
Air Conditioning Systems	\$125,000
Gallery, Halls, Stairs Update	\$35,000
Wesley Hall, Parlor, Offices Update	\$50,000
Select Exterior Trim, Doors, and Windows	\$50,000
Mechanical and Electrical	\$70,000
Refinish Nave & Pews	\$150,000
Wesley Hall & Kitchen Flooring	\$35,000
Debt Retirement	\$95,000
Total	\$1,000,000

FAQ

How will projects be prioritized, and who will manage the funds?

Once we have a clearer understanding of financial support for this campaign, we will begin a process to develop a list of projects and priorities that align with your commitments. Think of this process as a series of Town Hall meetings where everyone has a chance to provide input and a voice in setting priorities. These discussions will focus on urgent needs (roof, HVAC systems, parking lot), projects with potential for sustainability and energy efficiency, and projects that enable us to expand our mission reach and community engagement. Urgent needs will be addressed first, followed by facility updates, upgrades, and program enhancements. **Transparency and accountability** will guide every decision, with regular updates provided to the congregation.

How do these projects further our community engagement?

Please note that our building is the first point of our connection to the community all week long. Engaging our community is an important part of our mission, and we should remember that our facilities and grounds are mission-critical every day of the year. To that end, 100% of this campaign will have a positive impact on our ability to engage those in the community who seek a safe, climate-controlled, hospitable place as they come through Heart of Longmont's doors. While our project list seems to reflect that community engagement is the last priority of this campaign, the reality is that this entire campaign is about community engagement and growing our ministry impact through caring for our amazing buildings and grounds.

How can we afford this if we've struggled with the general budget?

The capital campaign is separate from our operating budget. It is not uncommon for churches that have year-end financial challenges to have capital campaigns to address much-needed projects to care for the building. 2024 was a year of great generosity and momentum at Heart of Longmont. We are building on that momentum during this exciting season. **While our annual budget funds ministry operations, the campaign ensures we invest in long-term facility and mission sustainability.**

How does this campaign work?

For the Heart of Community campaign, we invite all who are a part of our church (members and friends) to prayerfully consider making a three-year commitment over and above current annual giving. This season of prayerful discernment is important because every household in our church is in a different place financially. Our feasibility study concluded that we have the capacity to raise \$700,000 to \$1,000,000 or more over the three-year period. With every household doing its part, we will meet or exceed this benchmark.

Can I split my current giving between the annual fund and my capital commitment?

We ask that you not do this since our annual fund provides vital support for the day-to-day mission and ministry of Heart of Longmont. It is important that the capital commitments do not negatively affect our annual giving.





Why is the campaign goal \$1 million if our full facility needs are \$1.75 million?

We set a realistic goal based on feasibility and giving capacity while still addressing critical needs. Additional funding sources, such as grants and phased improvements, may help close the gap. Prioritization will ensure that the most essential projects are completed first.

If we don't raise the full \$1 million, what happens?

Funds raised will be used strategically to address the **highest-priority needs first**. The leadership team will reassess and adjust plans as necessary, ensuring **responsible stewardship** of the resources available.

What does “updating and upgrading” mean, and how will these improvements serve the congregation and community?

“Updating and upgrading” refers to necessary improvements to enhance accessibility, aesthetics, and functionality. This includes renovating key gathering spaces like Wesley Hall, the kitchen, and technology infrastructure to enhance worship, education, and community engagement.

Why are we including debt repayment in the campaign?

Paying off the remaining 2022 HVAC loan allows us to **redirect those funds toward ministry** growth instead of loan payments. This enhances **financial sustainability** and strengthens our long-term mission impact.

Will there be other ways to contribute, such as fundraising events or grants?

Yes! While congregational giving is the foundation, we will also **explore grants and partnerships**, especially for sustainability and energy-efficient projects that arise from our discussions regarding updates and upgrades.





WHAT IS YOUR PLACE IN THE CAMPAIGN?

At this time, we are simply inviting all who are a part of Heart of Longmont to enter a season of spiritual reflection and discernment, believing that each household will discover its part as they seek God’s direction regarding this decision. Ultimately, all will be given an opportunity to financially commit to supporting this vision. The contribution period will commence this coming June for three years.

Pray

“God, what do You want to do through me?” This is the prayer we invite everyone to pray over the course of this campaign. Take a moment to reflect in prayer how God is calling you to support our campaign effort.

Engage

We not only desire your prayers for this campaign, but we want your active participation and engagement as well throughout this process. There are multiple opportunities to engage along the way. Commit to coming to worship during this season, join a Sunday School class or bible study, volunteer with your fellow church members in one of our mission opportunities, and attend our many upcoming special Sundays:

April 6th – Gratitude Sunday: We are invited to express our gratitude to God as we consider the ways that God has impacted our lives for the better through our church community

May 4th – Ministry Sunday: We’ll celebrate the life-changing ministries of our church and the inspiring stories of how individuals and families have been blessed by God through these ministries; and hear a sermon from our campaign strategist, Don Smith.

June 1st – Celebration Sunday: We’ll hear a special announcement about the status of the **Heart of Community** Campaign.

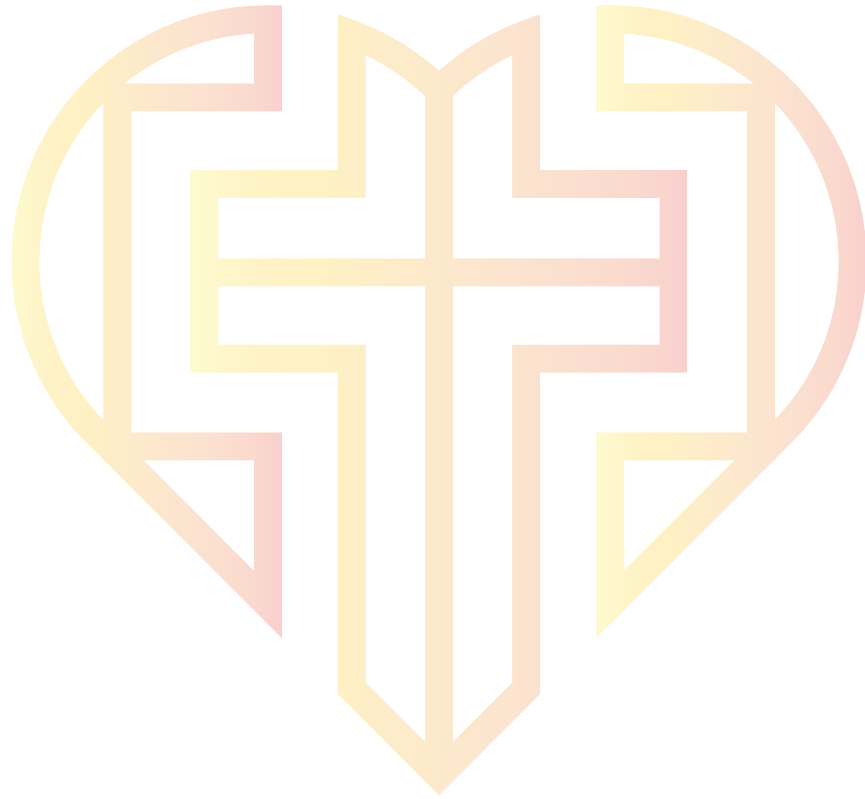
June 8th – Commitment Sunday: Commitment cards will be received during worship as we offer the response God has led each of us to make.

June 15th – Announcement Sunday: We’ll celebrate the faithfulness of God and the collective generosity of the Heart of Longmont family as we announce the grand total of the three-year commitments received.

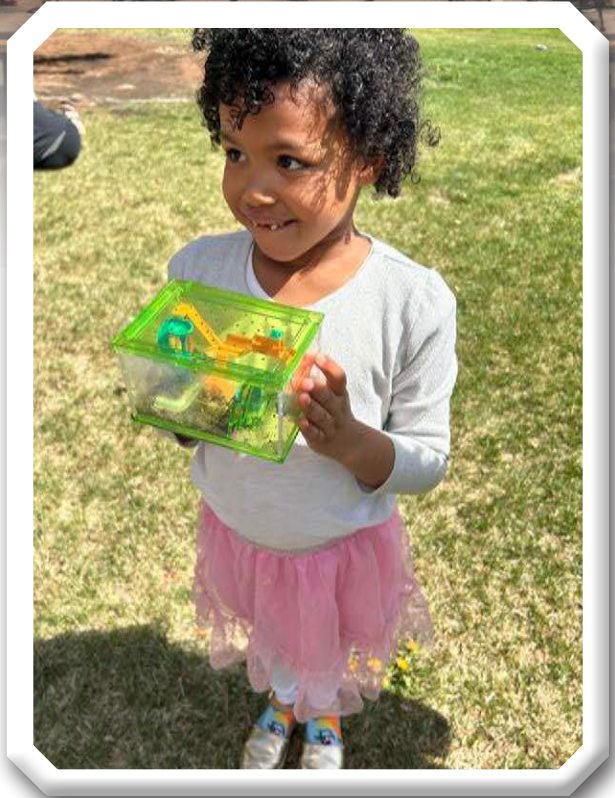
Respond

Boldly and faithfully respond to God’s call for your participation. God does not call us to an equal share, but God calls us to consider what we can sacrifice. Only God can lead you into what would be a sacrificial gift for you.





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