



JULY/AUGUST 2025

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR



Dearest Church Family,

As I sit down to write my very first newsletter article as your new pastor, my heart is full of excitement

and gratitude. I am so honored to be joining you in ministry at Heart of Longmont, and I can't wait to see what God has in store for us in the days, months, and years ahead. From the moment I first learned about your congregation, I've felt a deep sense of joy and calling—and now that July has arrived, I'm thrilled that we finally get to begin this new chapter together.

To help us kick off this new

season of ministry, we'll be starting a 6-week worship series on Sunday, July 6 entitled *"I've Been Meaning to Ask..."* This beautiful and thoughtful series, created by the artists and theologians of A Sanctified Art, is designed to deepen connection and spark honest conversations. Each week, we'll explore questions like:

- What's your story?
- Where are you from?
- Where does it hurt?
- What do you need?
- Where do we go from here?
- Where is God in the midst of this?

These questions offer us a meaningful way to learn each other's stories, share our own, and build a foundation of trust, curiosity, and compassion. I can't think of a more perfect way to begin our time

together.

My husband, Russ, and I just moved into our new home in Berthoud, and while we're still unpacking boxes and figuring out where the light switches are, we are so grateful to be settling in. We share our new home with our rescue dog, Cooper, who brings us daily reminders of God's joy, grace, and the power of an enthusiastic tail wag. If you see me in the town of Berthoud or in downtown Longmont, please say hello!

I truly can't wait to meet you, share stories with you, worship alongside you, and do life together. My door (and my heart) is always open, and I hope you'll come introduce yourself, ask questions, and share a bit of your story. This is just the beginning of what I pray will be a deep, Spirit-filled journey together.

With great hope and joy,

- Pastor Angie Dornisch

I've been
meaning
to ask...

a series for curiosity,
courage, & connection

6-WEEK WORSHIP SERIES
BEGINNING
SUNDAY, JULY 6

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY DIRECTOR...

SUMMERTIME FUN TIMES!

Summer is in full swing, and so are our plans for some fantastic family fun! We've got two exciting events coming up that you won't want to miss.

POOLSIDE FUN

First up, we had a refreshing Pool Party on June 22! It was the perfect chance to beat the heat, splash around, and enjoy some fellowship with our church family. We had a great time!

WELCOMING OUR NEW PASTOR

We're also eagerly preparing a special event to welcome our new pastor, Angie! This party will be a fantastic chance for

everyone to greet Pastor Angie, introduce yourselves, and officially welcome her into our church family.

Hooray for summertime filled with fun and fellowship!

Pastor Angie Welcome Party:

- We're planning to host this event in late July or early August.
- Expect more details to come via email and church announcements.

- Holly Milne,
CFM Director



FAITH THAT GROWS IN THE SMALL MOMENTS

When we think about spiritual growth in young people, it's easy to picture the big moments: the powerful worship nights on mission trips, the foot-washing ceremony that moves everyone to tears, or the energy of hundreds of youth gathering at conference events. And yes—those moments matter. They make an impact.

But some of the most lasting, genuine faith formation happens in the small moments.

It's in the quiet comfort of a youth group friend asking, "Are you okay?" when someone's had a hard week. It's in a sixth grader boldly raising their hand to share an answer to a group question for the very

first time. It's in the laughter that fills our youth room when we gather to play games and the way that joy spills over into deeper conversations afterward.

Faith grows in whispered prayers and inside jokes. It grows in the evenings spent sitting cross-legged on the floor, talking about who Jesus is and what it means to love like Him — even when it's hard. It grows when someone volunteers to sweep the floor without being asked, or when one of our older youth includes a new sixth grader without hesitation.

This summer, we're looking forward to some big, exciting things: our mission trip to West Virginia and our

traditional day at Sunset Pool. But even in the most exciting seasons, I'm reminded that the real work of faith is slow and steady. It shows up in small acts of love, kindness, and showing up—again and again.

So thank you, Heart of Longmont, for supporting these everyday moments. For cheering on our youth, not just on our mission trips and big outings, but in the youth rooms on a Sunday night. Faith is growing here, one beautiful, small moment at a time.

- Emily Farrenkopf,
Youth Ministries Director



2025 Confirmands



The youth during a recent summer gathering at Get Air Trampoline Park.



FINANCE UPDATE - MAY 2025

Overview: Growth Comes with Investment

As we near the midpoint of 2025, we continue to live into a season of growth—spiritually, relationally, and operationally. These early months have brought both meaningful investments and some financial challenges, but also encouraging signs of momentum and generosity.

Through May, income is tracking slightly ahead of budget and 6% above 2024 levels (when adjusting for a one-time \$16,658 grant received last year). We saw a healthy response from the congregation, with giving patterns gaining strength as spring progressed. This reflects what we've seen in recent years: many members fulfill or catch up on their pledges later in the year, with year-end giving.

Expenses are also trending above budget, largely due to strategic, one-time costs associated with launching our capital campaign. In addition, we're continuing to implement Long Range Planning recommendations, including:

- Expanded staffing for nursery,

Category	YTD 2025 Actual	YTD 2025 Budget	YTD 2024 Actual
Income	\$196,846	\$186,545	\$186,000
Expenses	\$236,825	\$230,315	\$211,741
Income less than Expenses (Deficit)	(\$39,979)	(\$43,770)	(\$25,741)

- children, and family ministries
- Additional tech support for worship and communication
- A phased adjustment in pastor compensation toward levels typical for churches of our size and scope

These early investments are not just financial, they are expressions of faith in the future of Heart of Longmont. They are already making a visible difference in the life of our church, strengthening worship, outreach, and connection with new and returning families.

Looking Ahead: Confidence in Our Trajectory

Our year-to-date deficit of \$39,979, while higher than ideal, remains within our expectations and reflects the intentional choices we've made to build a strong

foundation for the future. We anticipate that giving will continue to strengthen especially as we get to the fall. Likewise, expenses are being monitored carefully and are expected to normalize in the coming months.

Thank You

Thank you for your continued faithfulness, generosity, and belief in what we are building together. If you have any questions or would like more detail about the budget, our giving trends, or how your gifts are used, please don't hesitate to reach out. Your support continues to make ministry happen at Heart of Longmont—in big and small ways, every day.

With gratitude,

- Rod Edmonds, Treasurer

FACILITIES AND HEART OF COMMUNITY UPDATE

We are thrilled to share that our Heart of Community Capital Campaign has surpassed its initial goal! As of the date of this update, 79 households have committed an incredible \$1,020,342.50 over the next three years to support the renewal and stewardship of our church facilities. This extraordinary response is a testament to the faith, generosity, and shared vision of our congregation—thank you!

On the strength of these early commitments and First Fruits offerings, we're already moving forward. Our first priority was to address critical air conditioning issues in

the Office and Education Wing, with a goal of completing that work by the end of June—just in time for summer heat. We've also received two bids for much-needed parking lot repairs and are in the process of evaluating options.

In parallel with these near-term projects, we've begun working with an architect to explore how we might update and enhance our church's interior spaces. This process is not just about aesthetics, it's about expanding our capacity for ministry and mission. We want to ensure our spaces reflect the welcoming, vibrant, and purpose-filled community we strive to be.

As part of this work, we will invite the congregation to share input and feedback later this summer or early fall. We hope to have renderings to help visualize potential updates and will host small group conversations (10-15 people) as well as a larger after-worship session to hear from as many voices as possible.

As always, we remain committed to transparency, thoughtful planning, and good stewardship. Thank you for being part of this exciting next chapter in the life of our church.

- Facilities Design Team

COMPASSION OFFERINGS

July – Gun Safe Giveaway Initiative

July's Compassion Offering will support our ongoing Gun Safe Giveaway Events, a vital outreach focused on preventing unintentional injuries and deaths due to unsecured firearms in the home. Research shows that youth are especially at risk when firearms are not stored safely (Kaufman et al., 2023).

In partnership with the United Church of Christ, we typically distribute around 150 handgun safes and 150 car safes at each event. Costs average \$100 per handgun safe and \$30 per car safe. Events are funded and coordinated through the Longmont Community Foundation, with two giveaways held each year—one in the summer and one on Veterans Day.

Your generosity helps ensure that these life-saving tools reach families who need them most. Your contribution can help save a life.

August – Acts for Love

August's Compassion Offering will support Heart of Longmont's Acts for Love Fund, a discretionary account managed by our pastor to offer immediate aid to individuals facing urgent financial hardship.

In today's economy, many individuals and families are stretched thin by rising costs and unexpected challenges. Acts for Love provides hope and practical support—whether it's help with a utility bill, rent, or essential needs—offering a lifeline in times of crisis.

Your donation to Acts for Love helps people regain stability and know they are not alone. Together, we can embody Christ's love through compassionate action.

PRIDEFEST CELEBRATION

by Joan Edmonds

Joy radiated from every corner of Roosevelt Park as vibrant colors, laughter, and love filled the air. This year's PrideFest was the largest and most spirited yet, and Heart of Longmont was honored to stand in joyful solidarity with our LGBTQ+ siblings—celebrating, affirming, and embracing the full beauty of who they are.

One participant reflected that being part of PrideFest as a faith community was a profoundly moving experience. The spirit of connection, authenticity, and radical acceptance was unmistakable.

It was a moment where love transcended barriers and community was lived out in its most inclusive form.

Smiles lit up faces, hearts opened freely, and conversations sparked with hope. Even as dark clouds continue to loom in the form of policies that marginalize and harm the LGBTQ+ community, on June 7th, the skies above PrideFest were filled with the light of compassion, courage, and unwavering support.

It was more than a celebration—it was a testament to what it means to be the hands and heart of love in the world.



HOL Volunteers at the HOL PrideFest booth.



Rock painting at the booth. Folks of all ages could unleash their creativity!



Behind the scenes at the HOL PrideFest booth.

“THE SPIRIT OF CONNECTION,
AUTHENTICITY, AND RADICAL
ACCEPTANCE WAS UNMISTAKABLE.”

CELEBRATING OUR WILD PLUM PARTNERSHIP

by Tricia Grafelman

Our church hosts the largest site for Longmont's Federal Head Start program with 50 families calling Heart of Longmont their school. We have worked hard to build a meaningful relationship with them and help as much as possible. A few of the ways we partner with them include:

- Weekly Reading Program
- Chef Hearty Meal Kits
- Teacher Appreciation Coffee and Breakfasts/Luncheons
- Santa's Workshop and Family Christmas baskets in December

THIS JULY AND AUGUST

We will begin collecting school supplies to help provide Wild Plum teachers with the supplies they need for the school year. The teachers aren't paid enough and do not have other funds to purchase the supplies they need on their own out of pocket. Your generous donations of school supplies for their classrooms makes a world of difference to the teachers and students!

Be on the lookout for a pink bin in the gallery with a list of what supplies the teachers need. Jump in on all the excitement as back to school shopping gets underway and make the Wild Plum teachers' jobs just a little bit easier!

CONTINUING TO SERVE

For the past three years, we have hosted the Precious Child non-profit organization in our nursery where anyone from the community or Wild Plum could come to pick out clothing, underclothes, as well as health and wellness items. The Precious Child organization has pulled out of our space, but we are hoping to keep the giving going in a new way.

We invite you to donate money or items (such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, laundry soap, or lotion) for this space. Clothing items that are in VERY high demand are socks, underwear, pants, diapers, pull-ups, and shoes.



Share The Love Breakfast for Wild Plum teachers and staff.



Some of Santa's Helpers at Santa's Workshop 2024.



Reading to Wild Plum preschoolers for the weekly Reading Program.



BACK TO SCHOOL!

For all students gearing up for another school year, we invite you to bring your backpacks, computer bags, or sports bags to church on Sunday, August 10 for a blessing from Pastor Angie.

PASTOR ANGIE MEET AND GREET GATHERINGS

We are so excited to welcome Pastor Angie Dornisch to the Heart of Longmont! In an effort to help her get to know everyone, we are inviting folks to make sure to wear their nametags and update their pictures in the Breeze Online Church Directory. If you haven't done so yet please reach out to Virginia Clingan, our office manager, to get you set up!

We will have several small "Meet and Greet" group gatherings for Pastor Angie. Please look at the list of opportunities and reach out to the host if you would like to attend one of these gatherings. This is a great way for you to get to know Pastor Angie better and for her to get to know you better!

- July 2 at 10 am: Home of Iris Rottenburg
- July 3 at 7 pm: Home of Ray and Marty Allison
- July 10 at 2 pm: Home of Peg and Butch Howard
- July 14 at 6 pm: Lydia Circle in Church Gallery
- July 15 at 9:30: Esther Circle in Church Gallery
- July 17 at 9:30: Sarah Circle at Ann Yoder's Home
- July 21 at 10:30: Elizabeth Circle in Church Gallery

RETURNING TO GUATEMALA WITH ODIM

We invite you to open your eyes, mind, hands and heart to the people of San Pablo and San Juan La Laguna in Guatemala. Our Heart of Longmont Adult Mission team will be traveling November 7 to 15 to Guatemala to serve these two communities with ODIM (Organization for the Development of the Indigenous Maya).

ODIM was originally founded as a medical mission but has grown to provide primary health care and health education programs in the rural communities around Lake Atitlán. When we traveled and served there two years ago, we installed well-ventilated wood burning stoves with their HIHI (High Impact Home Improvement) program and received a cultural education of a lifetime. The work is not very demanding (you will be placed in teams of four to five per site) and much of the time you will be building relationships with the children and women of the home you are serving.

Exploring many different parts of Guatemala (Antigua, Lake Atitlán, San Juan and Panajachel), getting to know the ODIM staff (who are mostly indigenous Mayan themselves!), eating food prepared by locals, and putting more of God's love into the world while serving and getting to know the mission team even better are just a few of the joys you will experience on this trip!

Please check out the ODIM website for more information about their organization and programs:

<https://www.odimguatemala.org/>

We will be hosting a planning meeting for this upcoming trip on July 13 at 11:30 AM in Room 104.

If you have questions, please contact Tricia Grafelman or join us on Sunday, July 13, in room 104 to get answers!



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY WELCOME CREW

The Heart of Longmont has had a long-standing relationship with Habitat for Humanity. We have participated in helping build homes, providing lunches for those who are working, and have given yearly from our Compassion Offering initiative.

This year, we have added a way new to connect with the new homeowners by helping them to make the transition into their home a memory not to be forgotten! This June, we acted as

a Habitat for Humanity Welcome Crew and had the opportunity to provide food for Kristina's home dedication as well as household gifts to brighten her day and ease the costly burden of setting up her new home.

Thank you to all of you who provided food, gifts, and prayers for Kristina and her family! A special thank you to Jean Malchow and Joan Riggins for their time and effort helping on Dedication Day!



BEING 'VILE' IS A GOOD THING, HISTORIAN SAYS

BY JIM PATTERSON
JUNE 4, 2025 | UM NEWS

Look up "vile" in a dictionary, and you'll see synonyms like "evil," "sinful," "vicious" and "immoral."

So why is a new book projecting a way forward for The United Methodist Church called "*Wesleyan Vile-tality*?"

Ashley Boggan, top executive of the United Methodist Commission on Archives and History and author of *Wesleyan Vile-tality: Reclaiming the Heart of Methodist Identity*, is happy to explain.

"Liking the word 'vile' has to be taken in the context that (John) Wesley was using it," Boggan said in an interview with UM News. It was the founder of Methodism who first used the word in the context of evangelization.

"It is catchy when you tell a bunch of clergy or bishops or laity that they might want to be more vile," Boggan said. "The way that Wesley used it when he preached in the fields for the first time in 1739, he says that he submits. He submitted to be 'more vile.'"

"Is God calling you to take the love of God to places where you might not really want to go —places or people who society says maybe don't go there?" Boggan asked. "I think the word (vile) just stands out to me and really says that this was a call. This was not something that Wesley planned on doing."

Wesleyan Vile-tality makes its case partially by critiquing times that Boggan believes Methodists have fallen short. Examples include the long waits for women, LGBTQ people and racial minorities to be considered as full equals in the denomination. For example:

- It took until 2019 for the church to add "men and women are of equal value in the eyes of God" into the denomination's constitution.
- Only a year ago at the General Conference held in Charlotte, North Carolina, did United Methodists lift long-standing bans on the ordination of LGBTQ clergy and the hosting of same-sex weddings by clergy and churches. About a quarter of U.S. United Methodist churches left the denomination in recent years over disagreements about how inclusive to be of LGBTQ people in the life of the church.
- Despite Wesley's strong stand against slavery dating back to 1774, predecessor denominations of The United Methodist Church wavered on the issue, leading many Black Methodists to leave and form new denominations, such as the African Methodist Episcopal Church founded in 1816.
- Methodists were among the denominations that ran boarding schools for Native American children, where the children were stripped of their culture and otherwise mistreated in the name of integrating them within white society.



Ashley Boggan, top executive of the United Methodist Commission on Archives and History, is author of "*Wesleyan Vile-tality: Reclaiming the Heart of Methodist Identity*." Photo courtesy of Archives and History.

Supporting inclusion and other social justice issues often leads to "progressive" labels. Some in the denomination argue that the church has become too involved in politics.

"The (United Methodist) church in the U.S. has adopted ideological positions that are often outright partisan," wrote Cliff White, an attorney and longtime United Methodist in a commentary published April 23 by UM News. "By using the good name and resources of The United Methodist Church to advance an ideological agenda, the authority of the church is diminished and we become little different from any other civic, even partisan, organization."

Still, United Methodist leaders and agencies stress what they are doing is not partisan but advocating for the denomination's Social Principles. The social teachings are intended to represent "the prayerful and earnest efforts of the General Conference to speak to the issues in the contemporary world from a sound biblical and theological foundation that is in keeping with the best of our United Methodist tradition."

On May 7, the Council of Bishops issued four letters, including calls for the rejection of violence against transgender persons and to take a stand against the dismantling of diversity, equity and inclusion policies. The United Methodist Board of Church and Society released similar social justice position statements on May 20 that are based on the Social Principles.

Boggan is happy the church is headed in that direction.

"If we're going to actually ground ourselves in Wesley, it's really hard to not be progressive socially," she said. "Methodism, particularly in the U.S., has allowed us to stray from the radicalness that Wesley was calling us to be."

The biblical imperatives are clear, she said.

"Put everything that you have as a privileged person on the line to make sure that those who are outside of that privilege can know their own worth and the love of God," Boggan said.

"I'm sure this is alienating, but it's really hard for me to understand how a person can really, truly understand the Methodist identity and not seek to ensure progressive values in all of society."

Methodism lost this focus when it became so popular that it had more to lose if it alienated some of its members, she said. She said the denomination became "too institutional."

The United Methodist Church had a high of 12.5 million members in 2018, according to reporting by the denomination's General Council on Finance and Administration. At the end of 2023, post COVID and disaffiliations, it's closer to 10 million, the finance agency reports.

"I think within the history of Methodism, the desire for respectability lined up with the desire for power," Boggan said. "That

aligns with becoming an institution, when you have reached a certain size and you've shown that you can follow the rules and still kind of challenge society a little bit, but in ways that aren't threatening."

That is "where we lost sight of our Wesleyan roots," Boggan said.

"I see a lot of hope in us going back to who Wesley wanted the people called Methodist to be, and for me that is folks who (value) the equity of all persons, no matter their gender identity, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, economic status, social status, immigration status or citizenship."

That moral stance is what Methodists need to reclaim, she said.

"That is the thing that we've lost sight of, and to reclaim that in an actual, practical way, means being willing to push social and potentially legal boundaries that prevent that from happening, not only in the U.S. but around the world.

"The hard thing is that'll have consequences," she said. "If you look at John Wesley and those early Methodists, they were seen as a really socially and religiously disruptive group. They were tarred and feathered and subject to mobs and subjected to jail."

As hard as consequences might be, it is still a "necessary" thing for Methodists to do, she believes.

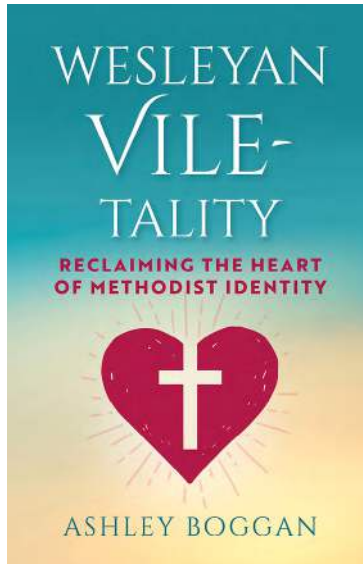
"If we're really going to say that women and trans folks and queer folks and persons who aren't U.S. citizens, but are here working, deserve the right to be here and to be where God is calling them, that might require those of us who are in a privileged space putting ourselves out there."

The new vision statement for the church released May 1 is a step in the right direction, Boggan said. The statement is: "The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections."

"If you're going to transform the world through loving boldly, serving joyfully and leading courageously, then that necessitates some sort of countercultural aspect, especially today," she said.

"I almost wish it didn't," Boggan said. "It would be easier if it didn't, but that's not the world we live in."

Jim Patterson is a UM News reporter in Nashville, Tennessee. Contact him at newsdesk@umnews.org. To read more United Methodist news, subscribe to the free Daily or Weekly Digests.



From El Comité De Longmont



Break the Spiral of Silence

Recently, I learned something new about silence that helped me reckon these past months with how and whether to use my voice. It may be of use to you too.

There is a theory in the communications field called the Spiral of Silence. In short, most people assume they hold a minority view and, afraid to be alone in that

viewpoint and therefore vulnerable, we silence ourselves. In our failure to speak up, the silence spirals and grows. And then, as the silence grows, in the vacuum left by the absence of our voices, positions that were once fringe go repeatedly unchallenged... until they are accepted as the majority viewpoint.

But in reality, according to the theory and data, we have it all wrong and our fear is unwarranted.

In fact, recent research found that 80% of us support diversity, equity and inclusion work, and want to end the divisiveness in the U.S. In addition, Medicaid is broadly used by and wildly popular among Americans across the political spectrum, and the vast majority of people in the world want their governments to do more to address climate change. Remarkably, we incorrectly believe that most people don't share our views, but they do.

This mismatch between perception and reality leads us to stay silent. So, the heartbreaking reality is that we self-silence based on a false perception. And then we give up the battlefield.

There have been 311 changes to immigration law and policy in the last few months. This number increases every couple of weeks. An alien registry has been implemented, funds providing unaccompanied children and people in detention access to representation and information on their rights has been rescinded. Hundreds of people have been shipped to prison and detention in countries far from their own homes with no due process or

possibility of ever getting out, just because they had tattoos, came from Venezuela, or got caught up in sweeps. People from Colorado were on those planes. Remarkably, despite court orders to stop sending people to El Salvador and to bring some of them home, they are not home.

Even people who are here legally, and people who have followed all the rules have been targets. For example, international students have lost their visas. Dozens of students in Colorado were impacted. And hundreds of thousands of people who entered on government programs are now scrambling since the administration terminated the programs they entered on.

At El Comité, our participants, regardless of immigration status, are impacted by the Administration's attacks on immigrants and their constitutionally protected rights. We have heard from more participants in recent weeks about reports of detained family members, and have been asked by scared participants to go with them to ICE check-ins.

While immigrants are the immediate targets of these changes, make no mistake: **These are also attacks on everyone's civil rights.**

For all of us, just like El Comité participants, all of this is overwhelming and scary. When I am overwhelmed and scared, staying quiet feels safe. But now I know that not speaking up just

feeds the spiral of silence.

For now, we still have rights. I will use my first amendment rights today to break the Spiral of Silence by speaking up about what we are seeing in our work—and all that is deplorable about what is happening to the people we serve. I hope you will also consider using your precious voice. Let's break the Spiral of Silence together.

Thank you to all who came out for the fundraiser, La Camarada Secreta! Thanks to you, it was a success beyond our imagination.

If you would like to donate to support our work helping our clients to understand their rights, prepare for worst-case scenarios, and access attorneys, [please click here \[or visit our website\]](#).

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 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 RMEQ's website 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.

Attorney General Weiser: SCOTUS decision does not change access to gender-affirming care in Colorado

June 18, 2025 (DENVER) – Attorney General Phil Weiser released the following statement regarding today's U.S. Supreme Court opinion in United States v. Skrmetti:

"Here in Colorado, our legislature, through the democratic process, enacted a state law that made gender-affirming care legally protected health care. Today's Supreme Court opinion in United States v. Skrmetti does not change access to gender-affirming care in our state. Parents, with trusted medical providers, know what is best for their child and should have the option to seek the care their child needs.

"Our state also has a law banning the harmful and discredited practice of conversion therapy. If the court is serious about leaving questions regarding health care to the people, their elected representatives, and the democratic process, it should likewise defer to state laws banning conversion therapy.

"I have met with parents, providers, and kids who live in fear because of how transgender people have been targeted by some to score political points. No one should live in fear because of who they are or who they love. We must commit to addressing these issues with empathy, grace, and understanding for the safety of all our communities."

We Have Your Back: A Pride Month Message from RMEQ COO, Bruce Parker

2025 has been rough to put it lightly. That's why it is so important that this year's Pride Month be a moment of celebration and joy.

It is also a time to reflect and recommit ourselves to supporting each other and the entire LGBTQ+ community. It's a time to honor the courage of those who came before us, to celebrate the resilience of our community, and to face today's challenges with clarity and conviction. If you find yourself feeling like there isn't a lot to celebrate, I would encourage you to remember that we are still here, still fighting, and still working together to build the future that we all deserve. Now let's be clear, we are living through a coordinated political assault—not just from extremist legislators, but from our own federal government.

This is a calculated campaign to erase LGBTQ+ people from public life. And they're starting with trans people, particularly

youth, because they think that's where we'll break. They think trans folks are the easy target. They think we won't stand together, that we'll be too distracted by bad-faith debates about sports teams and bathrooms to notice what's really happening.

But they don't know us.

We're not going anywhere, and we will stand together because we are rooted in community, not fear.

What we're witnessing isn't random—it's strategic and deeply dangerous. From D.C. to Denver, there's a wave of rollbacks:

- Trans people stripped of federal recognition
- HIV service funding gutted
- LGBTQ+ employee groups dismantled
- Nondiscrimination protections erased in housing,

- healthcare, and employment
- LGBTQ+ health data scrubbed from public records
- School policies weaponized to make youth unsafe

- Youth looking for safety
- Families on the brink needing support
- Queer and trans people navigating systems never built for them

Even in the face of these realities, some advocates are asking, How do we convince LGB people they're next—even if trans people are the current focus?

But here's the thing: We're not next. We're already being targeted.

To my LGB friends: Don't get it twisted. They are coming for all of us—right now.

At Rocky Mountain Equality, we're seeing the fallout up close. Every day, our staff are answering the call:

Since last November's election, demand for our programs has surged—from therapy to case management, from advocacy to community events. Our team is working miracles. We are holding families together. Helping people survive and thrive. Building systems that center equity, not exclusion.

And you—our community—you're right here with us. You're volunteering. You're donating. You're showing up. You're doing what community does: having each other's backs.

If you are struggling or in crisis, please contact one of the below 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.**



CRISIS RESOURCES

THE NATIONAL SUICIDE HOTLINE

1-800-SUICIDE (1-800-784-2433) or visit 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

TREVORLIFELINE

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

TREVOEXT

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.

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 or 720-815-2885

Visit Recovery Café's website recoverycafelongmont.org for information on how to support their work, information on becoming a member, and other resources.



HOL ADULT GROUPS

Faith and Reason Adult Study Group

Sundays from 8:30 AM to 9:30 AM
in person and via Zoom
Contact Sandy Rabenhorst for more information.

Adventurers Adult Ministry

Sunday mornings 8:45 AM - 9:45 AM
Contact Tricia Grafelman for more information.

Men's Fellowship Group

Bi-weekly
Contact the church office for more information.

Pickleball with the Heart (Summer)

Saturday Mornings at 10 AM at Clark Centennial Park
No experience needed! Instructions and equipment provided.
Sign up at the Connection Center!
Contact Keith Watson with questions.

Monthly Meditation Class

Two Fridays Per Month 12:00 PM to 1:30 PM at Heart of Longmont
Chris Mason is offering free meditation classes twice a month at the Heart of Longmont. All are welcome! Many types of meditation will be covered with a focus on Buddhist and Christian practices. Meetings held two Fridays per month from 12:00 PM to 1:30 PM at Heart of Longmont. No experience is necessary to join! Check this space or contact the church office for class dates.

UWF CIRCLES

Lydia Circle

Jean Malchow and Linda McDaniel (co-chairs)
Second Monday of the month at 6:00pm in the Gallery.

Sarah Circle

Ann Yoder (chair)
3rd Thursday of the month at 9:30am in various homes.

Esther Circle

Nancy Swope (chair)
3rd Tuesday of the month at 9:30am in the Parlor.

Elizabeth Circle

Linda Morris (chair)
3rd Monday of the month at 1pm in Room 104.

UWF Youngish People's Group

Sara Morgan
Every other Sunday at 5:00 PM in the HOL Library (Room 102-104)
Little ones are welcome!

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Meals for Youth Group Meetings

If you can help provide, serve, and clean up meals for the youth group on Sunday evenings this year, sign up in at the Connection Center or contact the church office!

Blessing Box

The Heart of Longmont's food pantry, the Blessing Box, would be happy to receive any of your non-perishable, still in date food items. You can drop them off just inside the side door of the church in the "Blessing Box" cabinet. The HOL Blessing Box is very heavily used, so any donation you can manage will soon be on its way to reducing hunger!!

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!

*We Are A Community
That Prays*

Send your prayer requests to
prayers@heartoflongmont.org

Submissions?

Do you have a worshipful moment, memorable experience, story, photo, or other interesting Heart of Longmont tale you'd like to share with our community? Send them to digitalcontent@heartoflongmont.org!



Give Online



Scan here to give to HOL programs
and compassion offering.
Thank you for your generosity!

Worship With Us!

Join us for worship every Sunday at 10:00 AM
in person or online on our YouTube channel!
We look forward to seeing you there!

Follow Us on Social Media!



www.youtube.com/HeartofLongmont



www.facebook.com/HeartofLongmont



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



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



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

HOL Cares About Your Health

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

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



CONTACT US

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

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

www.heartoflongmont.org

OUR MISSION

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

Serving as the Heart of Longmont means:

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

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

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

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

We will work to protect God's creation.

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