



FUMC Loveland

December 2024

# Senior Newsletter

## A Balancing Act

By Rev. Lee Anderson-Harris

I have a job description that could be described as a balancing act. I don't mean balancing daily tasks (although that's always a challenge, isn't it?). It's a balance that I feel personally called to in ministry: the need to be the Church in the world, and the need to care for and nurture those within the church. I would say that the purpose of churches could be summed up in this way: to bless and serve the communities in which they dwell, and to nurture people in the faith. We live out the teachings of Jesus, bringing the presence of Christ into the world and people to Christ; and, we care for one another within the church. Both are necessary. So, in my particular role at FUMC in specialized ministry, I am glad to be a part of both, and I am passionate about leading fellow Christians in practicing both.

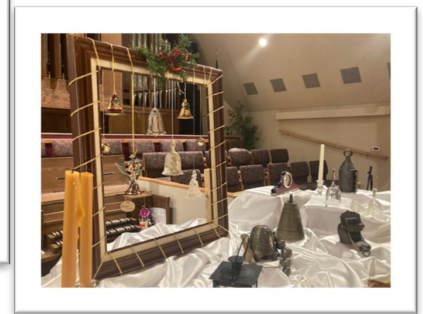
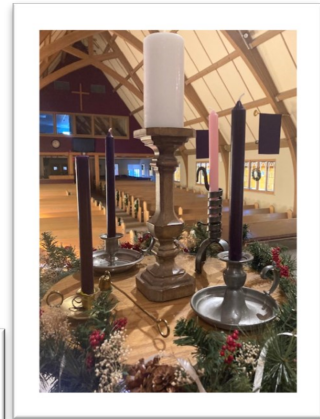
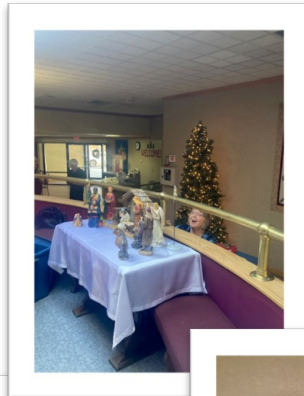
I can get focused on one aspect over another at times. Now, don't get me wrong, these two aspects of the Church are not mutually exclusive! There is a lot of interweaving here. But I have noticed more acutely this past year that if I focus on congregational care or the inner workings of the church, I feel neglectful of the need to serve the community, and vice versa. A colleague friend of mine says he thinks in terms of seasons of ministry; I think this is a good way to understand the rhythms or balance in ministerial duties.

But, churches...not just pastors...must be aware of the need for balance. In my ongoing learning about church leadership, I have seen a continual theme: Churches who focus *solely* on the comfort and happiness of their members will not survive. The decline is usually long and slow, hardly perceptible, but it's a gradual decline until the church closes its doors. Similar to the example of Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol*, when we as individuals become concerned only about ourselves and ignore those around us, we die a gradual spiritual death. The same thing happens in churches. But as with Scrooge and all of us, new life is possible.

This is why I have spent time this year on projects that encourage getting outside of the walls of the church, such as service projects and activities designed to let the surrounding community know FUMC is alive and cares. And, I want to continue to support members of the congregation in a time of need and in their faith journey. This is the balancing act. My hope is that you will join me in it. A church needs people who are servers and caregivers and teachers and activists and connectors and...the list goes on. I know that many of you, like me, are invested not just in the present of FUMC but in the future as well. I can see it in the ways you give of yourselves more so than in words. I invite you to reflect on the balance I have tried to describe here, and ask where you see yourself fitting in. And maybe, where God is calling you to stretch yourself!

## Church Decorating Day

On the Monday morning before Thanksgiving, several FUMC folks showed up to help decorate the building for the Advent and Christmas season. The beautiful results of this work will bless all those who come in the doors of FUMC this season!



## Art and Community

Girl Scout Troop #76036 meets in Fellowship Hall at FUMC, and recently Studio Vino joined their meeting to teach them how to paint. Check out these budding artists!



## Christmas in Guatemala

Want to join in on FUMC's partnership with Pura Vida? Here are two ways to do it!

January 2025 will see a team from FUMC travel to Guatemala to help construct a two room home for a Guatemalan family. We're depending on virtual team members to help out. Visit [https://www.puravida.org/virtual-trip.html?trip\\_id=112](https://www.puravida.org/virtual-trip.html?trip_id=112) to make a donation. Join the team virtually with a \$250 donation to receive daily progress updates via email during the construction week. Or contribute what you can to help cover construction costs. Let's once again Raise the Roof!!

Pura Vida is once again offering Alternative Gift Cards for sale. You can make a tax-deductible contribution to support Pura Vida's Christmas Milk Program and Unsponsored Student Fund, and receive a beautiful card to send to friends and family, telling them a donation has been made in their name. Pura Vida is a mission partner of FUMC. For many years, members of this congregation have volunteered time and given financial contributions to provide housing and support to students and families in rural Guatemala. To order your cards, go to <https://www.puravida.org/alternative-gifts.html>.

December

## Around FUMC

O	C	V	E	F	T	M	C	R	S	F	N	A	H
O	A	T	O	R	T	T	C	E	A	E	A	R	I
A	N	N	S	T	C	T	O	N	S	N	D	I	S
S	N	P	N	R	C	L	F	N	S	E	V	C	T
S	I	O	T	O	H	M	F	I	O	C	E	T	O
Y	W	I	T	V	R	C	E	D	R	S	N	E	R
R	R	N	T	O	I	O	E	E	C	Y	T	P	I
S	T	S	N	C	S	O	T	L	S	T	C	R	C
R	O	E	C	A	M	K	I	O	H	I	A	A	A
L	R	T	A	N	O	I	M	S	T	V	N	C	L
E	G	T	P	T	N	E	E	O	A	I	D	W	T
C	A	I	G	A	S	J	E	P	E	T	L	E	O
A	N	A	F	T	O	A	F	I	R	A	E	N	U
S	M	S	C	A	I	R	E	S	W	N	S	S	R

NEW CARPET  
 HISTORICAL TOUR  
 COFFEE TIME  
 ADVENT CANDLES  
 POSOLE DINNER  
 WREATHS  
 POINSETTIAS  
 COOKIE JAR  
 NATIVITY SCENE  
 CROSS  
 CANTATA  
 ORGAN  
 CHRISMONS

## December/Early January Birthdays

### December 3

Sarah Dill

### December 13

Ted Nutting

### December 19

Marcia Eads

### December 25

Graig Marrs

Elnora McCloughan

### December 5

Cindy Crawley

Pat Lutz

### December 15

Mary Shaffer

### December 20

Pat Farnham

Marion Monacelli

### December 30

Kay Ward

### December 10

Marlene Thurman

### December 16

Joyce Burns

Gregg Geis

Carol Morganti

### December 22

Shirley Wilbur

### December 31

Betty Hill

### December 11

Diane Mills

Donna Oswald

Kelly Torrez

### December 17

Helen Hengl

### December 23

Dale Thurman

Wayne Martin

### January 1

Nancy Weber

### December 18

Joanne Scheihing

### December 24

Judy Graff

Kitty Nutting

### January 7

Larry Jones

### ***Mark your Calendar!***

#### **JOY Fellowship**

Trinity UMC's JOY Fellowship meets again on January 8 at 11:00am. JOY Fellowship is a monthly luncheon and program for adults age 55+. FUMC adults are warmly welcomed to join them each month. There is no cost to attend, but donations are welcome. In January, they will be watching the movie *Unsung Heroes* and enjoying snacks and finger foods. Look for a sign up sheet at the Ask Me Desk later in December, or contact Rev. Lee to RSVP.

#### **Contact Us**

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