



The Window
First United Methodist Church, Loveland, CO
December 22, 2024

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Invite your family, friends and neighbors to worship the Newborn King at FUMC this Christmas Eve. Two service opportunities are available, at 4:30 pm and 6:30 pm. See December Music below for musical offerings.



CHRISTMAS EVE GREETERS NEEDED

Help provide a warm welcome and hospitality to all who come to Christmas Eve worship at FUMC! Greeters are still needed for the 4:30 pm service to welcome people into the building. Sign up by [clicking here](#) or at the sign-up board in the sanctuary.

THE LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

The past few years, FUMC has hosted a Blue Christmas service for those experiencing grief, loneliness, depression, or who just aren't able to get into the joy of the season. This year, FUMC will be joining other local churches at Trinity Lutheran Church for The Longest Night, the same type of service by a different name. The Longest Night is held on the longest night of the year, acknowledging the darkness in life. Join us on **Saturday, December 21 at 7:00 pm at Trinity Lutheran Church, 3333 Duffield Ave, Loveland.**



ALL CHURCH CAROLING

Help spread Christmas joy! This year we will **meet at the church on Sunday, December 22 at 1:00 pm** to go caroling to our shut-ins. We have about ten members we will be caroling for at their homes. This is a wonderful way to share the love of the Christ Child to those who are unable to attend church during the advent season. Please plan to join this lovely Christmas tradition. If you have questions, please contact Judy Graff at 970-218-4944.



CHRISTMAS EVE SPECIAL OFFERING

In addition to your pledged and normal Sunday offering this Christmas season, please prayerfully donate toward FUMC's special Christmas Eve Offering. 100% of the special offering will go to support three worthwhile assistance organizations. Locally, the Community Kitchen, serves meals to anyone experiencing food insecurity in our community, seven days a week. Nationally, UMCOR continues to provide recovery support to those impacted by the destruction of Hurricane Helene. Internationally, Noor El-Salam, a non-profit school in Lebanon, provides education for Syrian refugee children. Your giving makes a difference.

JANUARY'S ALTERNATIVE WORSHIP EXPERIENCE

Do you prefer a relaxed, come-as-you-are, non-traditional worship experience? Does being able to sleep in a little longer and still gather for worship appeal to you? If so, join us at FUMC's **First Sunday Alternative Worship** experience. The next gathering will be held January 5, 2025, **beginning at 11:20 am** and ends at Noon-ish. We'll sing and enjoy music a bit, listen a bit, dialogue a bit, share communion and support one another by sharing our joys and concerns. Come check it out! We'll **gather downstairs in Fellowship Hall. Please enter the church through the southeast main doors.**



CHURCH OFFICE & PASTORS' HOLIDAY SCHEDULES

The church office will be closed on Christmas Eve, Christmas day, Thursday, December 26 and New Year's Day. The office will be open on New Year's Eve and resume normal office hour schedule on Thursday, January 2. There will be no Window or Thursday e-blast distributed on Thursday December 26 or January 2.

Rev. Leslie and Rev. Lee will be out of the office on vacation Thursday December 26 until Thursday, January 2. For emergencies during that time, please contact Matthew Utley at 970-779-1960 for assistance.

OUR LITTLES NEED YOUR HELP!

This January, one of our nursery staff will be out on maternity leave. Our Safe Sanctuary policy requires that there are at least two adults caring for and supervising children at all times. We cannot offer nursery care during Sunday school or mid-week activities unless two adults are in the room with the children. FUMC only has three paid nursery staff. There will be some Sunday mornings and Monday evenings when only one staff is available. We are asking for volunteers to help ensure the nursery remains open. Shifts are short. You aren't required to work every week...whatever time you can offer is appreciated. You get to enjoy the unmatched joy of young children. If you are willing to help out once or a few times, please sign up at the Volunteer Hub or contact Pastor Leslie at leslie@fumccleveland.com. This is a wonderful opportunity for anyone interested in volunteering for an hour or two on Sundays/Mondays.

DECEMBER MUSIC

December 22 - Bill Eads & Mike Spoon - duet, saxophone quartet with Wyatt Sanderson.

December 24 - 4:30 pm: Spirit Sounds Bell Choir with guest soloist, Mykala Fitzpatrick and Kathryn Peiffer on piano, Ben Clegern, soloist & the Clegern family, ensemble.

6:30 pm: Chancel Choir, Melanie Pepper - flute, Ben Clegern, soloist & the Clegern family, ensemble. December 29 - Clegern family - vocal music, Cindy Utley - vocal solo.



CHRISTMAS GIFT "BASKETS"

FUMC will continue its tradition of providing food to those in need this Christmas by way of grocery gift cards to unhoused/low-income seniors. The gift cards will be provided with a small gift to brighten their Christmas! If you would like to make a donation toward these gift cards, please make a check payable to First UMC and write "Christmas Baskets" in the memo line. Thank you for your generosity for the sake of others!

CHURCH CONFERENCE CELEBRATION SET FOR JANUARY 12

The second "phase" of the annual meeting will be held on January 12, 2025, immediately following the worship service. We will share a potluck together, then celebrate the ministries of the church, including voting on Matthew Utley's continuation of candidacy for ordained ministry in the UMC. We will also convey any important information, and members will have the opportunity to ratify the votes taken by the Charge Conference on December 2. Mark your calendars for this fun fellowship, yet important meeting, get together. You can sign up to help set up or bring food in Coy Hall or by [clicking here](#).

JOY FELLOWSHIP

Trinity UMC's JOY Fellowship meets again on **January 8 at 11:00 am**. 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 or contact Rev. Lee to RSVP.

PURA VIDA (VIRTUAL) WORK TRIP

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 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!!



AN ALTERNATIVE GIFT OPTION FOR A GOOD CAUSE

Pura Vida is 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. To order your cards, click [HERE](#).

YOUTH MINISTRY

Mid & Senior High Youth Coordinator - Matthew Utley - youth@fumccleveland.com

Friday, December 20 - Saturday, December 21 - Youth Christmas party and lock-in (starting at 6:00 pm)

Sunday, December 22 - Lunch and Youth Group after church 11:15 am - about 1:00 pm. AND Christmas caroling with the church to homebound church members until 4/5 pm.

Sunday December 29 - Lunch and Youth Group after church 11:15 am - 1:30 pm.

Sunday, January 5 - No Youth Group.

Sunday January 12 - Lunch and Youth Group after church 11:15 am - 1:30 pm.

THANK YOU COOKIE JAR SHOPPERS AND BAKERS!

Thanks to your help the youth were able to raise over \$1,200 for their next mission trip to Nashville TN!



PERSONALS

Prayers:

Jed Pancoast, in memory care and hospice. Cards can be mailed to him at Hyland Hills Senior Living, Memory Care, 9560 Sheridan Blvd, Westminster 80031. Dolores is in a separate room at the same facility, also in the Memory Care wing.

Brock, son of Kim & Rich Laue, on dialysis

Gregg Geis, rehabilitation for broken hip

Pat Lutz, hospice care

Death: We give thanks for the life of *Helen Hengl* who entered eternal life on November 28 at the age of 102. No services are scheduled at this time.



Birthdays: December 16-22

Marcia Eads
Gregg Geis

Marion Monacelli
Carol Morganti

Joanne Scheihing
Shirley Wilbur