



FUMC Loveland

September 2024

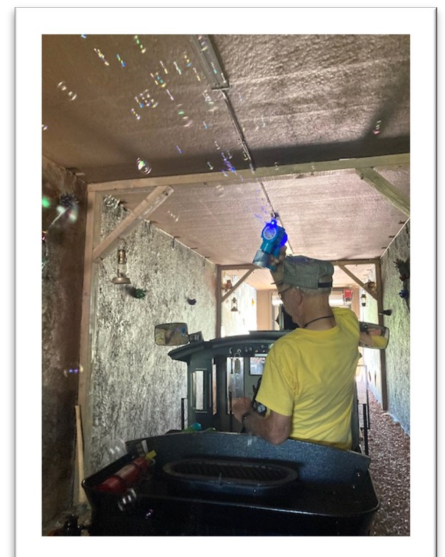
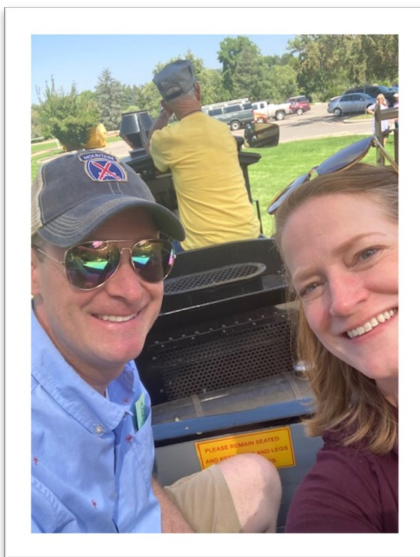
Senior Newsletter

A Celebration of Creation

By Rev. Lee Anderson-Harris

During September we are engaging in a worship and study series to honor the Season of Creation, which is an annual time to unite Christians everywhere in prayer and action for our common home. The idea of co-creation is speaking to me right now...God created and is still creating, but we have a partnership in that. As we care for what IS, we co-create with God what CAN BE. The future is not already determined. This brings hope to a mind that can easily feel already doomed. What is it that you are co-creating? What are you working toward (and doing nothing is still working toward something!)? What is it that you hope for? I hope you fall in love with creation and the Creator all over again this season, and embrace, with enthusiasm and new life, your ability to co-create in many ways!

Lyle Gilroy began driving the Lions Club train at North Lake Park in 1997. After 27 years, he decided to retire. His last day was Saturday, August 31 and many of Lyle's FUMC friends showed up to take one last ride with him! For Jeremiah and I, it was our first time to ride the train, and it was a treat. Lyle used a bubble machine to add an extra fun effect for the kiddos on the train as we went into the tunnel. Lyle, you can hang up your conductor cap with the knowledge you have completed a job well done! You have made a lot of people smile, and have made a lot of good memories for yourself to keep as well.



This devotion was written by Rev. Wendy Williams, Senior Minister of Jefferson Unitarian Church in Golden. It was shared to an email list I am a part of, and I have retyped it as written with her permission. I hope you find her words as inspiring as I do! ~Rev. Lee

Sacred Accountability

Did you read the piece in the New York Times describing a focus group comprised of folks with differing political views? While all shared anger and frustration over the state of our country, there was no agreement on the causes or potential solutions and there was plenty of blame being tossed around.

This isn't a surprise. And, sadly, it's not new.

I think of Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel's wisdom from decades ago: *"Morally speaking, there is no limit to the concern one must feel for the suffering of human beings. Indifference to evil is worse than evil itself, [and] in a free society, some are guilty, but all are responsible."*

All are responsible. These words haunt me for they invite me to both an inner reckoning and to the ongoing work of justice.

It is hard in these times to resist the cultural impulse to find someone to blame. Yet, if blame was in any way a useful tool, we would surely be on the road to recovery. No. It seems I must keep doing the work not knowing if things will change, but trying again and again to add to the sum of love and justice in the world. As Cornell West reminded us: "Despair and hope are inseparable. One can never understand what hope is really about unless one wrestles with despair. The same is true with faith. There has to be some serious doubt, otherwise faith becomes merely a dogmatic formula, an orthodoxy, a way of evading the complexity of life, rather than a way of engaging honestly with life."

May we rise above our human tendency to complain and blame and demonize, as we live into our responsibility. May faithfulness help us answer the potent questions posed by writer, educator and trainer for transformative and disability justice, Mia Mingus: "What if accountability wasn't rooted in punishment, revenge or superficiality, but rooted in our values, growth, transformation, healing, freedom, and liberation? What if the work of accountability was held as so supremely sacred, that people who got to practice it—truly practice it—we considered lucky and those who had the honor of supporting it and witnessing it were also changed for the better from its power? What if we understand that no amount of 'tough love' or punishment could ever hold a candle to the long and hard labor, fear, and pain of facing our demons and our traumas? What if we learned to desire the challenging and the transformative, instead of the easy and the comfortable? After all, comfort and transformation do not live on the same block."

Honoring FUMC's Retired Clergy

FUMC is blessed to have several retired clergy as part of the congregation, and we want to take this moment to honor them. Reverends, we thank you for your many years of service and commitment. We thank you for the ways that you continue to bless us and those beyond FUMC. May you remember how God has worked through you and continues to work through you. And may your light continue to shine from within, as you know the peace of Christ within.

During the 2024 Annual Conference, the Mountain Sky Conference Historical Society and Commission on Archives & History honored the anniversaries of diaconal ministers and licensed and ordained clergy, as well as those who have served for more than 50 years as clergy. Let's celebrate these FUMC folks!

Bev Goodier, 25th anniversary as a Diaconal Minister

Steve Goodier, 48 years, Ordained Elder

Ted Nutting, 57 years, Ordained Elder

Jed Pancoast, 62 years, Ordained Elder

Paul Tapey, 64 years, Ordained Elder

Bob Link, 66 years, Ordained Elder

And while we don't have their years of service because they came to FUMC from another conference, we celebrate these retired clergy just as much!

George Franke, Ordained Elder

Vernon Maelzer, Associate Member

Barry Wehrle, Ordained Elder

Barbara Johns-Schleicher, Ordained Elder

Tom Thompson, Ordained Elder

Reuben Wilbur, Ordained Elder

Presentation of the play, "Ah, Yes, I Remember it Well"

In the last issue of the Senior Newsletter, there was a feature about the article in the Loveland Reporter-Herald about Jim Willard's play. Now you have a chance to see it yourself!

The original Good Samaritan Village players will be making a presentation of selected vignettes from, "Ah, Yes, I Remember It Well", a Readers' Theater Production, written and directed by Jim Willard (FUMC member since 1967). The program will begin at 12:15 p.m. on

Thursday, September 26th in the sanctuary. The "Off Broadway" presentation should last about an hour and a half. The vignettes tell the story of history from the Great Depression to modern day. Several Methodists are members of the cast. Please invite family and friends.

Hope to see you there!

September/Early October Birthdays

September 1

Luann Ball

September 11

Tim Anderson

September 24

Pat Mathena

October 1

Shirley Beaver

September 2

Kenneth Quick

September 13

Marilyn Hagan
Robert Monroe

September 25

Lew Graff
Kathy Prevost

October 2

Bobbie Douthit
Celia Frey
Rick West

September 3

Ronald Griese

September 14

Susan Kuhling

September 26

Royal Ryser

October 4

Ellen Shepherd

September 4

Delores Pancoast
Donald Smith

September 18

Cindy Lewandowski

September 30

Bill Guddeck

September 6

Steve Goodier

September 21

Iris Matney

September 8

Virginia Tanner

September 22

Rick Bradley

Senior Resources-Volunteers of America Handyperson Program

Volunteers of America's Handyman Program in Northern CO focuses on home safety. Our primary goal is to help reduce the risk of injury from slips, trips and falls. We provide simple safety repairs and minor home maintenance for limited-income seniors and disabled adults. Volunteers provide the labor; clients cover the cost of materials.

EXAMPLES OF THINGS WE DO

- Install grab bars and handrails
- Install smoke and carbon monoxide detectors
- Make minor repairs on stair treads
- Replace furnace filters and light bulbs
- Build risers for chairs, couches, and beds
- Build wheelchair ramps

For more information, please contact

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