



FUMC Loveland

February 2023

# Senior Newsletter

## FUMC Leadership Retreat

By Rev. Lee Anderson-Harris

On Saturday, January 28, FUMC's Church Council members and other church leaders gathered for a leadership retreat to vision and plan for the future. Good Samaritan Loveland generously provided meeting space, and the Congregational Resource Minister for our district, Rev. Sherry Ferriman, facilitated discussion and exercises. The goal was to share our hopes for FUMC and create some goals designed to meet some of those hopes and dreams. Acknowledging that this group cannot do everything, nor that we as a church cannot be all things to all people, participants focused on realistic ideas that can be pursued. Further, ideas needed to fall into one of four categories: reaching the heart (spirituality), the head (intellect or personal growth), the hands (service), and the whole body (wellness).

The work for this retreat started in the late fall when Church Council members were asked (and all FUMC members were invited!) to read *Forging a New Path: Moving the Church Forward in a Post-Pandemic World* by Rev. Rebekah Simon-Peter. The author validated what most of us have been experiencing by citing statistics, such as the findings by the Barna Group that "In-person church attendance is roughly 30 to 50 percent lower than it was before the pandemic" (Simon-Peter, 2022, p. 20); and by sharing observations from various clergy and churches. Rev. Simon-Peter (2022) writes "Normal doesn't exist anymore. There's no going back to 2019" (p. 18). This is both disturbing and freeing... churches are free to try new things and dream afresh. In addition to reading the book, we have been gathering by Zoom weekly to pray for the church together. This preparation culminated in the leadership retreat, but the work doesn't end there. Some ideas and hopes that were shared will need the voices and minds of many more at FUMC to bring into fruition. There is still much work to be done. But we are off to a good start in 2023 and are moving forward!



Rev. Ferriman leads discussion



Head, hands, whole body, and heart ideas board



Afternoon idea sharing

### Reference:

Simon-Peter, R. (2022). *Forging a new path: Moving the church forward in a post-pandemic world*. Market Square Books.

# The Season of Lent

By Rev. Lee Anderson-Harris

Lent is observed in United Methodist churches everywhere, but John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, actually didn't include it in his prayer book. Wesley put together the first book of prayers and rituals for American Methodists, using the English Book of Common Prayer and revising it. He left out Ash Wednesday, Lent, and Maundy Thursday, stating that "Most of the holy-days (so-called) are omitted, as at present answering no valuable end" (Burton-Edwards, 2014). In an article written for UM Discipleship Ministries, Taylor Burton-Edwards speculates that Wesley's rationale is due to the fact that in Methodism at that time, the core practices of Lent were the core practices of Methodism at all times during the year. There didn't need to be a set-apart time for fasting, confession or repentance, and prayer because it was expected that Methodists practiced these things regularly. Obviously, things have changed, and now we observe Ash Wednesday and Lent.

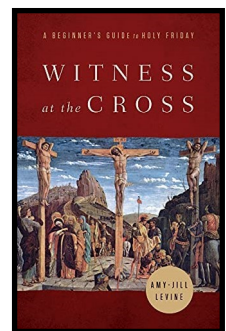
But still, not everyone in the church observes Lent. Do you? Are there certain aspects that you practice, but not others? Some see it as a time to give something up, while others see it as a time to add something, like prayer and reflection. Some embrace Lent as an important part of their faith development while others do not feel like they get anything out of it. While you might return to a tried-and-true practice during Lent, it might be the year to try something new instead. However you practice or don't, may this Lenten season (the root word means "spring") be a season of new growth in your faith journey!

## Reference:

Burton-Edwards, T. (2014, March). *Wesley on lent: "At present answering no valuable end."* Discipleship Ministries of the United Methodist Church. [www.umdiscipleship.org](http://www.umdiscipleship.org).

## Lenten Bible Study

Join Rev. Leslie and Ann Kessler for a Lenten Bible study, guided by the book [Witness at the Cross: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Friday](#) by Dr. Amy-Jill Levine.



Over the six weeks of Lent, we will stand at the foot of the cross, experiencing Holy Friday from the perspective of those who watched Jesus die...The people at the cross each have distinct roles to play. Each Evangelist...portrays different individuals and groups of people at the cross, each offers different images and dialogues, and so from each, we learn how those meanings and messages cross the centuries to any who would come to the cross today. The witnesses at the Crucifixion watch Jesus die, and we watch with them, and we watch them. And we come away transformed.

Two classes will be offered for your convenience. Tuesdays starting Feb. 21, 6:30-8:00pm, (in-person, led by Ann Kessler). Wednesdays starting Feb 22, 2:00-3:30pm (in-person and via Zoom, led by Rev. Leslie). Sign-up for the study by February 15 at the Ask-Me desk. Cost of the book is \$12.00.

# Some Thoughts From Your Lay Leader

By Rev. Lee Anderson-Harris

After the leadership retreat on January 28, I asked FUMC's current Lay Leader, Janeen Anderson, some questions about her perspective on the present and future of the church.

## ***What has stood out to you during our weekly prayer gatherings?***

Janeen said that it's been a blessing to be together, and she has enjoyed the fact that people can pray about what's on *their* hearts and minds. You get to hear a *variety* of what's important to people.

## ***What challenges have you seen FUMC overcome in the past?***

Janeen responded that FUMC split in the early 1970's, and it was a really hard time. There were many jobs in the church that people who left the church had previously done, but so many people jumped in to help out, including people who previously had not been very involved in the church. She sees this going on now as well.

## ***I commented that Janeen has been one of the people on Sunday mornings who consistently welcomes and talks to new visitors. We talked a bit about being welcoming...***

She responded that she simply looks around and notices who she doesn't recognize, and goes to them to introduce herself. But it's not just new visitors with whom she's enjoying more conversation. She thinks that the upside of having fewer people in the pews on Sunday morning is that it provides opportunity to talk to people she has previously seen in the church, but didn't spend much time talking to. As a result, she's gotten to know new people. And she has noticed this among other folks as well; she has noticed how people are conversing and are concerned about each other's lives and how they're doing. She said that a small-church feel is not a bad thing!

## ***YOU ARE ALWAYS INVITED!***

**Don't miss the Valentine's Potluck and Cookie Decorating on Tuesday, Feb. 14 at 5:00pm in Coy Hall.** Bring your favorite dish to share! Cookie decorating stations will be at each table. Undecorated cookie donations are greatly appreciated. The sign-up sheet is on the Ask Me Desk. Feel free to bring the cookies the night of the event.

Are you longing to see more children and young adults at church? They are longing to see you too! *Here's a little-known fact:* The Family Outreach & Events Committee plans events such as this one with the goal of creating intergenerational opportunities. These events are for all ages and stages; you don't have to be young or a family to be welcome! There are several gatherings throughout the year with lots of kids and young adults, and they wish to have more older adults present. So keep your eyes open for these events in The Window and on FUMC's Facebook page, and help spread the word. We hope to see you soon!

# February/Early March Birthdays

## February 1

Al Lowe  
Steve Tungesvick

## February 8

Penny Kindred  
Mary Beth Rodgers

## February 13

Jasper Brundege  
Marlin Yoder

## February 25

Ann Eatman  
Wendell Maupin

## February 3

Linda Schilling

## February 9

Melinda Bart  
Jo Anne Woodward

## February 15

Bob Chambers

## February 27

Kay Lussenhop

## February 5

Terry Gindlesparger

## February 10

Alan Paulsen

## February 16

Nancy Baker

## March 1

Judy Deal  
Rusty Mathena

## February 6

Sheila Berg

## February 11

Kay Atwood

## February 17

Marcia Kittle

## March 3

Julie Monroe

## February 7

Ginny Angelovic  
Thora Stone  
Richard Zelenka

## AJ Erwine

Kim Laue

## February 18

Linda Giauque  
Mary Hannon

## March 5

Lois Beers  
Jerry Yoder

## February 12

Kent McCloughan  
Lorri Nelson-Bradley  
Larry Ward

## February 19

Marc Messervey

## March 7

Bob Freeman

## 1st Friday Lunch Bunch

Friday, March 3 at Noon

Doors open at 11:30      \$5 per person

All are welcome to attend. Please sign up at the Ask Me Desk from February 5 through February 26 so we may have an accurate count for food preparation.

If you are unable to sign up at the church please call or email:

LOIS BEERS – 970-460-4346 OR  
lebeers@comcast.net

PAT COBB – 970-613-9625 OR  
anniebody@yahoo.com

## Contact Us

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