

March Church Council Committee Reports

Pastor/Staff Reports

Senior Pastor's Report, Rev. Leslie Wood

It's been a super, and busy, stretch since the last report in November.

Since mid-November a handful of dedicated folks have gathered to pray on Thursday mornings for a half hour. Initially intended to pray for discernment for our church prior to the leadership retreat on January 28th, the group decided to continue praying together as a Lenten discipline. We will continue in that sacred 30 minutes together, at least through Holy Week.

19 of us attended the Leadership Retreat. Almost every chair from every ministry area on council was represented. Plus, Doug Mannering, Carolyn and Charlie Bouchard attended as well for at least part of the day. Rev. Sherry Ferriman, the Peaks/Pikes Peak District Congregational Resource Minister, facilitated our discussions. For only meeting for about seven hours, leadership came away from the day with actionable, measurable and hopeful plans for the next one to three years.

I am delighted to welcome Shannon Heusinkveld and Matthew Utley on staff as of the first of the year. Both long time members of this church, they are settling in well in their roles as Children's Ministry Coordinator and Youth Ministries Coordinator, respectively.

We are in the middle of a reliably well-received and thought-provoking sermon series, *Fables that Inform*, anchored by the book of the same name written by the late rabbi and expert in Family System Theory, Dr. Edwin Friedman. As our Lenten series, we are examining a variety of systemic habits and traits that determine the health of our relationships.

To correspond with the sermon series, Lee is offering a class(es) that touch on topics that pertain to caring and healthy relationships.

While I am away on renewal leave from April 14th through July 31st, I strongly propose moving to a single service every Sunday. 10:00am seems to work well for the current first Sunday of the month schedule. Though, I realize that having a 10:00am Sunday every week would necessitate Searchers class to adjust their regular meeting schedule. At any rate, not only would moving to a single service mitigate some of the stressors on Lee and other staff on Sunday mornings, but it will also be a much more manageable schedule for our guest preachers while I am away.

The summer worship rhythms are much more relaxed anyway, and it is a good time to shift to a single service. Churches often do that every year. We would just begin the schedule a bit early. This could be considered a trial run, to help determine if the church will remain at a single service once fall activities start back up in August/September. This decision needs council's deliberation and approval.

I have completed 8-month worship planning that will begin on August 6th, my first Sunday back from renewal. I have plans in place already up through the last Sunday of Lent, March 24, 2024. This will help our worship leadership begin their planning when it is convenient for them, and help us all pick up without missing a beat when I return, hopefully.

Pulpit Supply is covered for the time I am away for all but two Sundays. June 18th has been a stubborn Sunday to fill. May 14th just opened up when Rev. Steve had to change his plans due to a request and commitment with the Conference. I am currently connecting with someone at the Conference who has indicated that she will be able to preach one of those Sundays, and our D.S. Rev. Tezenlo Thong is spreading the news/request with the Mountain Sky Conference cabinet to see if anyone else is available. Otherwise, here is the guest speaker schedule that has been confirmed.

April 16, Rev. Sherry Ferriman (Peaks/Pikes Peak District CRM and pastor at FUMC Fountain, CO)

April 23, Rev. Tezenlo Thong (Peaks/Pikes Peak District Superintendent)

April 30, Rev. Tezenlo Thong (Peaks/Pikes Peak District Superintendent)

May 7, the children of FUMC (a children's musical message lead by Susan Harding)

May 14, OPEN

May 21, Matt Utley

May 28, Rev. Sherry Ferriman

June 4, Matt Utley

June 11, Rev. Barry Wehrle

June 18, OPEN

June 25, Rev. Barry Wehrle

July 2, Rev. Ted Nutting

July 9, Rev. Lee

July 16, Rev. Lee

July 23, Rev. Lee

July 30, Rev. Lee

My hope and intent are for Rev. Lee to not be overburdened while I am away. I would ask FUMC to be sensitive to expectations and requests and be her advocate as needed. She doesn't need to double her meeting attendance, stepping into the meetings that I would normally attend. She doesn't need to be, and shouldn't be, the new staffing

supervisor. SPRC can handle any staff questions/needs that don't already involve her. Etc. My request would be to simplify, simplify, simplify as much as possible.

Finally, with cold, nasty weather being the order of the day this winter, I would like to initiate an adverse weather policy at FUMC. During the workweek (M-F), if bad weather forces Thompson Valley Schools to delay or close for the day, then the FUMC office will likewise delay or close for the day. I encourage FUMC ministry areas to follow the same protocol for late day/evening activities...just for ease of expectations. Certainly, though, this would not preclude individual groups who already have building access to meet if they still desire to do so.

Associate Pastor, Rev. Lee Anderson-Harris

In February I traveled with members of FUMC and Longs Peak UMC to Guatemala for another Pura Vida work trip. It was a good trip; we worked hard and had quality and enjoyable time together. It was a blessing to watch how everyone along well and make new friends, as this isn't always the case on mission trips. Despite several people getting sick on this trip, which is unusual, it was a good experience overall and I felt we were able to bless others as we ourselves were blessed.

On March 25 I will be teaching a class called How to Care, which teaches basic caring skills to anyone who is interested. This will dovetail with the sermon series on family systems. While there is no request that participants volunteer as a result of this class, my hope is that I will find new care volunteers to add to the care team and to help with pastoral care especially during Leslie's sabbatical.

I will begin moving forward with plans to hold a weekly meditation/centering prayer time and plan to launch that right after Easter (if not before).

I appreciate the support for my idea of holding monthly topical seminars at the church. According to the plan outlined by the group during the leadership retreat, I should begin recruiting a team to help guide this effort, and I agree. If anyone on church council would like to be a part of the planning process, please let me know. I also welcome suggestions of people in the congregation who might be interested.

Overall, I feel pretty good about Leslie's upcoming sabbatical. There is good support in place for preaching, which will allow me to focus on other things during the week. I have been offered personal support from SPRC and others in the church during the time. I have joined an online support and personal growth group that meets twice a month beginning in March, and I anticipate that will help me manage stress. My only concern is that I have a big trip planned myself, during the first two weeks of June. But, like any church with a single pastor knows, the show will go on! Yours in Christ, Lee

Children's Ministries Coordinator, Shannon Heusinkveld

Sunday School: We are just starting to do "themes" in Sunday School and we are now starting Noah. We will be creating the animals out of clay, building arks and using rainbow ribbon. We are trying out carrying a theme over 3-4 weeks, reading more than one Bible story and learning a Bible verse. So many kids have been sick, including my own, that we have had low attendance on Sunday School lately, but hopefully warm weather will help soon.

Susan's Music & Monday nights: This event is paired with the Women's Group that meets on Monday nights as well. Ms. Susan is working with the kids to prep for a May 7th play during service.

Family Outreach: We had a Valentine's Potluck and decorated cookies on 2/14/23. See pictures in Lee's newsletter!

Future: We are ramping up for a Palm Processional and an Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday. Youth Group will be helping the Easter Bunny by filling eggs and hiding them.

Youth Ministries Coordinator, Matthew Utley

Sunday School: Sunday school for youth does not have a lot in attendance so we usually sit and have dialogue with the youth that do come. We have dialogue through check ins and fun questions. At the end we connect it back to spirituality.

Youth Group: Youth Group has grown in popularity due to the youth who have been involved bringing friends. We have lunch after church on Sunday followed by a lesson and some games. Lately I have been planning the lessons on my own that are in part informed by my education in seminary. I will look into purchasing a curriculum in the future, but for now I am having fun with designing my own lesson plans.

Other: The youth recently went on a ski trip with Fort Collins FUMC youth. We had a lot of fun and overall the trip was successful.

Future: The youth will help stuff and hide eggs for the childrens Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday. I have begun looking into planning a mission trip for the youth at the end of June.

Committee Reports

Staff Parish, John Kindred

The SPRC meeting on Feb. 15 resulted in the following.

Jessica Gartner has submitted her resignation as Coordinator of Young Family Ministries to pursue an employment opportunity as an addiction counselor. The Union Ministry is exploring options for her duties at this time.

The revised Business Manager job description was approved.

Liaison positions between SPRC members and staff were assigned. This is done each year but is especially needed at this time. Each staff member's assigned liaison is asked to attend staff evaluations, which are being held in March instead of early summer. Pastor Leslie is doing the evaluations early due to her renewal leave.

Trustees, Vicky Shields

The Trustees Report for Church Council for the months of December 2022-February 2023 A brief description of the activities follows:

- Water pipes froze in the mechanical room by Fellowship Hall. This caused a water leak that flooded part of the area. The area was cleaned up and dried out. The city had to replace the water meter and we have yet to find out if the replacement cost will be billed to the church.
- Utility bills have increased quite a bit.
- The conference Accessibility Audit was completed and submitted to the conference.
- The Stiverson family donated a piano to the church and it has been placed in the Bell Choir Room.
- Several items need replaced or repaired and the cost is being determined for each. When these costs are tallied, Trustees will need to ask The Foundation for assistance.
 - o Sump pump in the boiler room needs replaced-bearings are worn out.
 - o Skylight in Lobby Court is leaking and it needs to be replaced or blocked in.
 - o The roof needs some repairs that will cost around \$7000.
- The Church van needs repair on the front heater. Cost will be. \$700-800. The repair shop ordered the parts.
- The Trustees are concerned about the amount of ice build up on the north side of the church. The sidewalk is our responsibility and liability. When it got very bad in February the city brought equipment and broke the ice up. A church member slipped on the ice on the way into church and fell. An usher happened to see her and went out and helped her up and assisted her into the building. Salt is being put down, but it doesn't make much difference. Ideas?

Abiding Memorials, Betty Hill

We met on Feb 21 for 'Abiding Memorials 101' since we have so many new members.

Missions and Social Concerns, Barry Wehrle

We have three items to report and one that is under review for possible action.

Christmas Offering 2022 – Our congregation continues to be generous in our giving. This offering totaled \$9,516. It was divided equally (\$3,172) between Homeward Alliance in Fort Collins, UMCOR Hurricane Relief for Florida and Puerto Rico and Pura Vida for the recently held in-person build in Guatemala.

Christmas Angel Tree/Harvest Pointe giving 2022 – Our Angel Tree program reached fewer children this year because of the poor information we received from Prison Fellowship regarding the children assigned to us – duplicate names, incorrect contact information, etc. Our congregation was able to assist 18 families with 30+ children. We are registered for next Christmas and have asked for 50 children. The Harvest Pointe effort was more successful. We were able to help 53 individuals/families including four church families. Each person/family received a gift card in the amount of \$100.00. This money comes from income from King Soopers Community Giving cards and individual contributions.

Truscott School Pozole Dinner – On December 8, we hosted a Pozole Dinner given by parents of Truscott students. The meal is prepared in our kitchen and served in Coy Hall. This is fund raiser for the school and is very successful.

Pura Vida – FUMC participated with Longs Peak UMC and other individuals in an in-person build in Guatemala, Feb. 3-12, where 22 persons worked on two homes. From all reports received, it was a very successful trip. An amazing amount of money was raised for this effort - \$13,400! FUMC contributed \$3,100, Longs Peak \$3,800. An additional \$6,500 was contributed by "virtual" members of the team and other individuals. Cost for the two homes was \$8,200. This amount includes \$750 for a much needed computer projector and screen for the Rosario School. We had a surplus of \$5,200 which was contributed to Pura Vida for the completion of other homes in Guatemala needing funding. Amazing!

Colorado Kids Belong – After a Searchers program was presented by Courtney Williams from Colorado Kids Belong, our committee decided to investigate the possibilities for our congregation to participate in some way in this program. Colorado Kids Belong is part of a national program promoting foster care of children. There is great need here in Colorado for foster care and for help given to those who are fostering children.

Marketing & Outreach, Andrea Ortega

Marketing had its first meeting since before Thanksgiving this past week!

Small shirts in all styles have been restocked.

Attached is the flyer that will be at the visitor center. Please let me know if you have any ideas or changes as we are down to myself and one other committee member. If you would like a flyer to display somewhere in town just let me know.

We did look into the cost of postcard mailers which are about \$71.94 for 50 through Vista Print including printing, postage and fees. We could possibly send these out once a year.

We have looked into Loveland Parks and Recreation events to sponsor but most start at \$500 so that is out of our budget. We could possibly hand out popcorn at these events depending on volunteers.

If anyone has ideas for other ways to introduce our church to the community, please feel free to contact me.