

## April 2024 Church Council Committee Reports

### Pastors, Rev Leslie Wood

- Holy Week kicked off on Palm Sunday with the delightful children's processional. Since the Chancel Choir was unable to offer a cantata during Advent, they combined music on Palm Sunday and Easter to tell the Procession/Passion/Easter stories with a cantata-esque selection of music. The well-received *Entering the Passion of Jesus* sermon series, where the congregation was invited to step back into the 1<sup>st</sup> Century Holy Week, wrapped up that morning.
- It was a joy to gather on at North Lake Park with TUMC and First Presbyterian Church for a community Easter sunrise service. About 50 worshipers gathered for worship, including about 15 from FUMC. Four FUMC youth participated. Wyatt Sanderson played a special music piece on his saxophone. Ian Sanderson, Noah Heusinkveld and Naomi Heusinkveld read a dramatization of John 21:1-17. Matthew Utley offered FUMC's portion of a 3-way reflection on the text, along with Rev. Amy Morgan from FPC and Rev. Bryson from TUMC. I offered the opening prayer led the worshipers in Holy Communion. \$363 was gathered in donation for the Larimer County Food Bank.
- The 9am and 11am worship services at FUMC were well attended and justified the decision to offer two services at 9am and 11am, rather than our usual single service at 10am. We moved from the passion of Jesus to *Dare to Dance* in hope, love and justice through the lectionary-based Easter season sermon series. The special Easter offering of \$6641.20 was divided between the three designated charities. World Central Kitchen received \$2,085.07. Since it was given during WCK's Ramadan Celebration Match, FUMC's donation was doubled to \$4170.14 to support aid in Gaza. Larimer County Food Bank received \$2,471.06. This offering included the \$386 donation received during the Community Easter Sunrise Service. Interfaith Council FOCO received 2,085.07 to support the Sayed family (2 parents and 10 children) as they resettle in Fort Collins. They are newcomers to our country from Afghanistan by way of a refugee camp in Qatar where they lived for two years.
- FUMC has lost several families who used to attend the former contemporary service. Sadly, the most recent, in just the past couple of weeks, is Kodi, Brent, Brandon and Karissa Fidler. Many of these families left to attend churches who offer a contemporary style of worship. Lunch & Learn sessions were held on April 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> to discern what made that service special to those who attended, in consideration of offering a fresh, new alternative worship service in the future. Nine former attendees of the contemporary service attended. Rev. Lee and Deb Adams each graciously provided lunch for the sessions. Judy Stout and Joy Shaw attended as Council reps. We received good feedback on attendees' perceptions of that service. Our next steps will be to convene a task force to determine the goals and feasibility of offering a new, alternative worship service.
- A Cuisine, Catch-Up and Conversation potluck was held after worship on April 21<sup>st</sup>. We gathered in Coy Hall after worship to enjoy good food and fellowship. Rick Tessean, Rev. Lee and I presented important news on FUMC's financial status and information on General Conference that begins this week in Charlotte, SC. The planned presentation by Rev. Bryson on the Union ministry was postponed due to a pastoral emergency that he had to attend to after TUMC's worship service.
- An FUMC 101 class will be held next Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. An open invitation was made to everyone who attends FUMC. Regular visitors who have attended over the past year were personally invited via a letter. Five have RSVP'd that they will attend. FUMC 101 is designed to familiarize interested guests and members on life in the FUMC community of faith. Non-member guests will be invited to join the church.
- Lee and I continue to meet with residents at Good Samaritan once each quarter. April 11<sup>th</sup> was our quarterly visit. Phyllis and Barry Wehrle led us in opening devotions and we enjoyed conversation about the current challenges of the UMC, General Conference issues and the Union Ministry.
- Progress continues on several of the reenergized and new plans generated from the 2024 Leadership Retreat. That includes a good deal of attention on ways to offer our building in service to the community and also, in some cases, generate a positive source of revenue that supports the broader missions and ministries of FUMC.
- Current priorities are to gather a team to design a MissionInsight demographic study and, possibly, conduct a Readiness 360 congregational research study between before Labor Day. Data from these research tools will help us shape and fine tune our plans and discernment how God is calling FUMC to be the church in the future.
- Annual Conference will be held in Casper, WY this year, June 20-23. Lee and I will be out of the office in attendance. Joy Shaw will lead worship on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Mary Hannon will be attending in person as well, as FUMC's lay delegate/member. We need to find a second person to serve as lay delegate.

### Rev Lee Anderson Harris

- It has been a busy year already, but one that feels full of new energy and forward movement. As you all know, there are conversations about the future of the church and building use, and the meetings and discussions involved have been a big focus of my time. But not the only focus...I am seeking to both maintain the things that need to continue happening and try other new things as well.

- Congregational Care: Establishing Sunday morning transportation has been a project with some successes and some ongoing challenges. I have also been trying to build my connections to resources as well as my own understanding of my role in supporting seniors who appear to be less able to take care of themselves in their own home, but who aren't ready to make a difficult change in their life. I scheduled another How To Care class in February but canceled it due to lack of registration. I will reschedule this in the future. The Senior Newsletter, which I consider to be an aspect of congregational care, is a vehicle that I have been using lately to address two things. First, I am using it to introduce some of our new folks to more people in the congregation. Second, I am writing articles about the future of Church in general and FUMC in particular, in an effort to guide thought and encourage change.
  - Education: I am currently leading a book/Bible study called *On Purpose: Finding God's Voice in Your Passion*. Eleven people are participating and enjoying the study, and I'm encouraged to start planning my next study. I am also using this time to try and promote the use of a personal and small group study resource called Amplify. This is a subscription service connected to Cokesbury that allows anyone in the church to access videos and set up their own small groups. I'm excited about it, but I haven't encountered the same excitement from others. And, it's hard to get the word out about this opportunity during the free trial with so many other things going on in the church.
  - Sunday gatherings: Leslie, Judy and I have been listening to members who formerly attended the praise service to gather information about those; as there have once again been several new regular worship attenders, we will lead another FUMC 101 and schedule another new member Sunday; and we will hold another gathering to provide fellowship and information on Union and the upcoming General Conference. This is a big and tense General Conference, and learning and understanding all that is going on takes time and effort. I appreciate having resources that help condense and explain things to me, and I hope that Leslie and I are able to bring this same assistance to those at FUMC who want to follow what's going on.
  - Also in the works: A women's retreat in the fall, being planned between FUMC and Longs Peak UMC in Longmont (does anyone want to join me in being on that planning team?); updating and redesigning the FUMC website; and new opportunities to be in service to the community through efforts the Missions/Social Concerns Committee is spearheading. I am once again remembering that I have more ideas than time, and while I don't want to "let go" of any ideas yet, I am asking God what the priorities are!
- Yours in Christ, Lee

#### Youth Ministries Coordinator, Matthew Utley

- In February the youth took their annual ski trip to Glenwood Springs. We combined groups with Fort Collins FUMC and had 21 youth total. Our trip was initially delayed due to unsafe road conditions, but we left the next day when the roads were clear. We were still able to ski, explore downtown Glenwood Springs, and swim at the hot springs. It was a great trip and it was fantastic to see youth from both churches bonding and interacting with each other.
- March was a bit of a busy month with Easter. The youth filled and hid Easter eggs for our Easter egg hunt with the children. 5 youth also participated in our Easter sunrise service with Trinity and First Congregational Church. Our youth played music, spoke, and collected an offering to support the community. We took a couple weeks off from youth group for spring break and the Sunday after Easter.
- We have met once in April so far. We have had about 5-6 youth regularly attending youth group.
- I am currently working with the youth coordinator in Fort Collins to do more combined activities. We are planning on doing a combined hike sometime at the end of the school year.
- Finally, I am still finalizing plans for the 2024 youth mission trip to Osage Beach Missouri. The mission trip will be June 22 - 29

#### Children's Ministries Coordinator, Shannon Heusinkveld

- Family Outreach is meeting once a month. We are currently planning the Mother's Day Tea and the Pride and Summer Kick Off events.
- During Sunday school in the month of April, the children are working with Susan Harding to get ready for the musical at TUMC on May 5th. The recording of this event will be played at FUMC on May 12th during service. The Mother's Day Tea, which is being called a Garden Party, will be outside, after service on the 12th as well.

Church Treasurer, Karen Lumpkin  
 Financial Secretary, Ellen Shepherd  
 Music Coordinator, Kathryn Peiffer  
 Choir Director, Nicole Ceciliani

Bell Choir Director, Susan Harding  
Lay Leader, Janeen Anderson  
Staff Parish, John Morgan  
Finance, Rick Tessean

Trustees, Richard Kittel

Community Support

- PEO Chapter started holding meetings at FUMC in February.
- Approved use of the FUMC sanctuary for a concert by the local Barbershop Chorus on Saturday, June 1.
- Near completion for sharing the Fellowship Hall with a local Girl Scout meeting every other Tuesday – starting May?
- Working with the Greeley Harmonic Orchestra with use of the Sanctuary one afternoon/evening in December.
- Possible school district using a room for pre-school – fall 2025.

Projects completed by 5M's & Contracted – Supported by Trustees

- Foundation money has been used to complete the projects of the circulation pump, roof repair, flood alarm sensor, Coy Hall water cooler replacement, boiler, and duct work. The sump pump is scheduled for spring work and the skylight remodel is on hold. Remaining budget - \$2,200.
- Installation of a flood (water) alarm in the Youth Range.
- Installation of two programable LED solar lights in the south parking lot.
- Hearing aid in Sanctuary. (Hearing assistance in the Sanctuary.)
- Approved adding signage / lettering to exterior office door and Coy Hall entrance for business days & hours.

FUMC Safety Issues: (Note: Founding issues resulting from transfer of \$30,000 from Foundation Funds for shot fall in FUMC's 2023 budget.)

- Update - 5M's Request to add (3) electric operated door openers.
- Update - 5M's Request to handrail to north side of ramp into sanctuary. (80% Estimate with 20% contingencies: \$2400.)
- Water drainage improvements; Bid
- Flooring/Carpet replacement – Safety – Tripping Hazard.

Ongoing projects:

- TK Elevator maintenance / updating controls.
- Possible Comcast cable modem replacement with Loveland's Pulse.
- Windows 11, digital security, and IT critical issues coming in 2025.
- CO2 Monitors.
- Sprinkler, major leak in zone on northwest parking lot.
- Possibly grant money to upgrade lighting to LED lighting.

Trustees Team Members: Keith Flamming joined Trustees in March/April

Abiding Memorials, Betty Hill ~ No report this month

Stewardship, John Kindred

Missions and Social Concerns, Barry Wehrle

- Our recent **Easter Offering** totaled a very generous \$6,255.21. This amount was divided equally among the World Community Kitchen, the Larimer County Food Bank and the Interfaith Council of Fort Collins. In addition, the Food Bank received another \$386 from the community Sunrise Service. The World Community Kitchen had a match offered during Ramadan. We are expecting that our gift to them will be doubled. The money we sent to the Interfaith Council will be used to help in the resettlement of an Afghan family new to our area
- **Colorado Kids Belong** – May is **Foster Care Awareness Month**. The Mission Committee believes there is a part our congregation can play in assisting Foster Families in our area in a number of ways. We are working to get on-board with this program. The May "Mission Minute" will feature Foster Care Awareness.
- **Refugee resettlement** - I recently was informed that refugee resettlement and assistance is happening here in Loveland. Three Lutheran churches are working together – Trinity, Zion and King of Glory. Members of our Committee will be meeting with our Lutheran friends on Tuesday, May 23 to investigate these efforts to see if there is a part our congregation can play.
- **SafeLot** – This program offers a safe overnight parking option for those who are unhoused and living in their cars. Zion Lutheran Church here in Loveland is operating such a program. Zion is looking for volunteer assistance. We are investigating this effort. SafeLot will be featured in our Mission Minute in the early fall.

- **Truscott** – we have been asked to supply an end of the school year lunch for the Truscott teachers as we did last year. We will do so with the cooperation of our congregation.

Marketing & Outreach, Andrea Ortega

Membership, Janeen Anderson

Safety and Security, Keith Flaming

UM Foundation, Mike Westbrook

Lay Members to AC, Mary Hannon and Kevin Peffer

At Large, Pam Erickson, Joy Shaw and Marlene Thurman

Communications Chair TBD