

September 2024 Church Council Committee Reports

Rev Leslie Wood

Early August plans were interrupted/impacted by the Alexander Mountain Fire. Lee and I spent many hours making phone calls, communicating, connecting with disaster response coordinators and educating ourselves on ways that FUMC can serve as a resource for support and care of evacuees and others impacted by the fire.

A new seven-week study, *Painting the Stars: Science, Religion and an Evolving Faith*, began on August 12th. Intended as a companion to the September Season of Creation sermon series, the small group meets to discuss the intersection of science and faith, with a particular emphasis on creation/natural world science.

We are currently engaged in the Season of Creation. In addition to the *Painting the Stars* study, we are pondering a sermon series *To Act and Hope with Creation*. The season will end with a Pet Blessing on October 6th, starting at 11:30am on the east lawn. We hope for a great turnout from our congregation and their pet family members, and from the community as well.

On August 23rd we received word that the Loveland Preschool is looking for a new location for a long-term lease opportunity beginning with their 2025/2026 school year. Charlie Bouchard reached out to their director and we have been in conversations with TLP about the possibility of leasing space from FUMC. We are working on a deadline of November 1, 2024 to confirm and commit...or not.

The Nominations Committee meets Wednesday, September 11th, to begin the first round of recruitment for committee positions and leadership for 2025. Any recommendations for people to contact to invite to serve on certain committee(s) is appreciated.

The Worship Committee will meet on September 23rd to discuss, among other things, the possibility of adding the re-NEW(ed) alternative worship service. We will look at lessons learned from the Lunch 'n Learn sessions last spring, data gained from the Survey Monkey that was conducted over the summer and the feedback gathered from the Weld County Ramblers service in June and the August Outdoors alternative-style worship services. If a decision is made to offer a new service, I hope to have it start at Advent, or in January 2025, latest.

Matthew begins his internship this month, to last until the end of term in June 2025. We have already been meeting to discuss the results from his Mission Insight quantitative demographic study. Those results will be summarized and presented at the next Council meeting. He has also done preliminary work on the Readiness 360 research survey. A decision needs to be made whether now is a good time to conduct the study. It is a helpful tool to ascertain congregational readiness for change and transition in the form of out-of-the-box ministry opportunities.

With the decline in attendance by children with young children on Sunday mornings (only 1 child attends regularly), FUMC is considering creative ways to offer a children's Sunday school going forward. We are meeting on September 19th with representatives from FUMC, TUMC and Union to discuss the possibility of creative, combined programming of some sort.

The next FUMC 101 class is scheduled for September 22nd, immediately following the worship service. Currently, we have one young man, Zackery Latshaw, who will be joining the church on September 29th. The Williams family, two parents with two young children, have expressed interest in joining and will attend the 101 class before determining the best date for them to join. We have several regular visitors and hope to have a good turnout for the class and commitment to join afterwards.

The Stewardship Campaign for 2025 pledging is in October. Commitment Sunday will be October 27th.

FUMC will be a tour stop on Historic Larimer County's Seventh Annual Holy Places for the Holidays Tour. HLC is featuring churches with mid-century architecture this year. The tour is scheduled for December 7th at 9:45am (I'm verifying that info), and will take about 45 minutes. We've been asked to provide a "tour guide" who can tell a bit about the history of our church building and answer questions.

We will want to spiff up and decorate the church extra special this Advent. I am taking volunteers to serve on a "Spiffy Advent Team" to plan areas/rooms for the tour, clean up needs and decoration plans...and to coordinate volunteers to help with the tasks.

Rev Lee Anderson Harris

As I wrote in my last report, FUMC's presence in the community as a church is increasingly on my mind. Here are some things I have worked on with others to help address that:

- Publicized that Heart & Sol of Loveland was in need of volunteers for their Juneteenth celebration.
- Hosted a Loveland Community Night Out block party on June 26.
- Had a table for the Foote Lagoon concerts in July.
- Hosted Labyrinth Open Houses in May, July, and August.
- Worked with local agencies to respond to the Alexander Mountain Fire, offering the church's space if needed.
- I have been working with an organization called Better Angels to present a workshop at the church, open to the greater community, and have been looking for a second option for the Fall as well.

- I am planning service/community outing days in October (Heart & Sol's Dia de los Muertos celebration) and November (community service day with A Little Help).

On a similar note, I am putting together a "Volunteer Hub" with the input of the Missions/Social Concerns Committee. This is an information station in Lobby Court that will list FUMC's various service partners and help people get connected in service. It will also provide information on ways to serve within the church as well.

To balance the outward-focus, I am hoping to improve connections among members of the congregation in terms of congregational care. Kathryn Peiffer shared an idea for a bread ministry to help people feel cared for by the church when they are grieving, ill, and so on. We are working on this as of the week of 9/1. I am teaching a How to Care class September 21 to teach basic caring skills to people. I am once again reflecting on how homebound ministry can be enhanced. The newsletter delivery program is still working well. Leslie and I have discussed coordinating a team of people who can help monitor worship attendance as a way to reach out to people whose attendance patterns have changed. The Autopsy book study will be held at a later time, after further discussion and consideration of how to coordinate the timing with the Readiness 360 project. But, look for information about a Bible/book study I will be leading in October based on Adam Hamilton's *Seeing Gray in a World of Black & White*. It is a timely study to teach our role as Christians in depolarization, and I hope that if Braver Angels is able to provide a workshop, the timing will be excellent.

Youth Ministries Coordinator, Matthew Utley

Youth participation has been good throughout the summer and start of the school year. We had a great mission trip in June, and we went to Water World in August. We have also seen a couple of new faces in the youth group which is very exciting. Average attendance has been around 5-6.

Now that school has started, I am looking forward to a more regular youth group schedule. The youth will also be heavily involved in Trunk or Treat next Month.

Children's Ministries Coordinator
Church Treasurer, Karen Lumpkin
Financial Secretary, Ellen Shepherd

Music Coordinator. Kathryn Peiffer

Music for Sep

Sept. 1 – Dave Mills & Neal Anderson flute/vocal duet; Gil Garcia, trumpet

Sept. 8 – Chancel Choir

Sept. 15 – Spirit Sounds Bell Choir

Sept. 22 – Chancel Choir

Sept. 29 – 12 Bell Group, Mike Spoon & Bill Eads vocal duet

Choir Director, Nicole Ceciliani
Bell Choir Director, Susan Harding
Lay Leader, Janeen Anderson
Staff Parish, John Morgan

Finance, Rick Tessean

The July financials were forwarded earlier.

The church is in the midst of upgrading PCs. PCs don't qualify for Loveland Methodist Foundation money as they are not building related. They do qualify as a capital expense by definition. We can utilize 57th Street funds to support this purchase. We would like approval from the Church Council for \$6000 to purchase three tower computers and two laptops, along with cables, monitors and docking stations for the laptops.

Trustees, Richard Kittel (**included in the minutes**)

Abiding Memorials, Betty Hill

The Abiding Memorials Committee had received two requests for Memorial Funds in the last few months. Kathryn Peiffer, music coordinator, requested funds to purchase Worship & Sing hymnals. These hymnals were not intended to replace our current hymnals, just add to them. The Abiding Memorials Committee voted unanimously to use Memorial Funds to purchase the requested hymnals for the church. These hymnals were used throughout the month of August at the outdoor services.

Another request for Memorial Funds was received in August, this time from Susan Harding, director of the Bell Choir. The Bell Choir was requesting funds to purchase a Fifth Octave of Bass Hand Chimes. The Committee unanimously approved the use of Memorial Funds for this purchase of bass hand chimes for the Bell Choir.

The Memorial Funds for these two purchases came out of Dedicated Music Funds as well as the Memorial Funds of Guy Prevost and Peter Skeffington per their spouses' requests.

Stewardship, John Kindred

Missions and Social Concerns, Barry Wehrle

Our Mission Committee has continued to be active during the summer months. One month ago, Aug. 6, we hosted Emmanuel and Florence Mefor, the mission couple long supported by FUMC. A small group gathered for an informative evening with this couple. FUMC will continue to support their work (\$2,500 per year). Please see a wonderful article about them in our current Mission Memo.

There have been several other activities and projects in which our church has been involved:

Habitat work days

Mission Minutes in worship which will continue each month.

School supplies collected for Truscott School

"Tea and Tissues" at Truscott on Sept. 14

Many needed items gathered and delivered to the Salvation Army

The promotion of "SafeLot"

A new Mission Memo expertly created by Mark Elliot available on our church website

A "resource card" also by Mark E. This card lists the services available to unhoused people and others in Loveland. It's a 5X7 card that is available on the Welcome Desk to be handed to those seeking help beyond what our church can provide.

We are looking forward to sending a team next January, under the direction of Rob Proctor, to Guatemala to help build another home. It looks like we will cooperate with another team which means FUMC will build "half a house" at a cost of approx. \$3,500 as we did last January.

In November/December we will be gathering Angel Tree Christmas Gifts as we have in past years.

At our recent September 3 meeting, it was decided that we are somewhat overextended in taking on a "Foster Friendly" program and refugee resettlement. We don't believe our congregation has the people or the resources at this time for either of these programs. We are putting those on the table for now.

Our committee is active and continues to enjoy and be thankful for the excellent support of our congregation for the programs and efforts in which we are involved.

Marketing & Outreach, Andrea Ortega

FUMC was able to participate in both concerts at the Foote Lagoon this year thanks to our volunteers!!

Marketing has not had any meetings this year and is still in need of 3-4 members on the committee, the current total is 1.

Facebook has a decent following with 569 followers and Instagram is still building with 13 followers. It looks like YouTube has 187 subscribers.

The upcoming Pet Blessing and Trunk or Treat events will be advertised on Facebook, Instagram, local Facebook groups and Faith Notes in the newspaper. The weekly message and events will continue to be posted on social media.

Membership, Janeen Anderson

Safety and Security, Keith Flaming

UM Foundation, Mike Westbrook

Lay Members to AC, Mary Hannon

At Large, Pam Erickson, Joy Shaw and Marlene Thurman

Communications Chair TBD