

October 2024 Church Council Committee Reports

Rev Leslie Wood

Quite a lot has been happening at FUMC in the past couple of months. Thank you to everyone who has been involved and supporting and praying during this hectic and hopeful time.

- The Season of Creation seven-week book study, *Painting the Stars: Science, Religion and an Evolving Faith*, began on August 12th and promptly ended after 3 sessions when Amplify Media suddenly discontinued the study and removed the videos from their website.
- The Season of Creation sermon series, *To Act and Hope with Creation*, ended on September 29th. We received a number of positive feedback on the series. A Pet Blessing on October 6th officially ended the season. A nice number of dogs and cats showed up with their humans, including neighbors from across the street on Grant. They told me that, while they are members at another church in town, they do attend here occasionally, consider FUMC their "neighborhood church", and "keep an eye on the place" for us.
- Since August 23rd we have worked with Loveland Preschool closely to determine their needs, received preliminary architectural plans for renovation of the space, Council voted to approve a lease and the renovation, referring next level approval to the charge conference. On October 17, 2024, the FUMC Charge Conference met and approved the lease and renovations. Rob Proctor was named as project manager and Rich Stiverson (trustees rep), Pete Shaw (trustees rep), John Kindred (council rep) and Judy Stout (council rep) were named to the project committee. The Charge Conference was officiated by DS Mark Calhoun.
- I completed and submitted the responses to the questions required by the District Location & Building Committee on Friday, October 18th. On Monday, October 22nd, the B&L chair emailed three follow-up questions, which were answered the same day. As Rob and the project committee get to work on securing the architect for the renovations and entertaining bids from contractors, we await the response to this project from the District Board of Church Location & Building. JR Casner, chair of the committee, is working diligently to give us their response by November 1st, or at least within a few days after.
- Staff hosted a Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast on Sunday morning, October 20th. Open to anyone who volunteers are the church and Union, or in the community with the resource organizations that FUMC supports and partners with. We had 43 volunteers come before service to enjoy breakfast. Carl Williams, one of our newest members, prepared the main entrée and plenty of bacon and sausage. Seven staff brought side dishes, prepped, served, and cleaned up (Though Lee tackled most of the clean-up...Thank you, Lee).
- The Nominations Committee is working to secure nominations for the various committees in 2025. We will meet Sunday November 3rd for status reports and next step conversations. Ellen Shepherd has announced her intention to retire from the financial secretary role in 2025. Thankfully, Cindy Utley has already agreed to step up and into that role. Ellen will be greatly missed...what a faithful asset to FUMC she has been! Cindy is very qualified to fill that important volunteer position.
- In the past couple of weeks, it's been discovered that FUMC's records of Board members and the Loveland Foundation's records of Board members do not match up, at least as far back as 2018. It is unclear when and how the discrepancies occurred, which is really a moot point right now. When Nominations meets, the committee will determine the current needs for 2025, fill any openings if necessary, and clearly communicate with the Foundation Board who will be serving as of January 1, 2025.
- The Worship Committee met on September 23rd to discuss, among other things, the possibility of adding the re-NEW(ed) alternative worship service. A decision was made to begin by offering a second service on the first Sunday of every month. The first alternative service will launch on December 1st, the first Sunday in Advent and continue, at least, through August. The service will likely be held in Fellowship Hall, rather than the Sanctuary.
- Matthew began his internship in September. His work is already invaluable. He has conducted a Mission Insight study. His report to Council summarizes those demographic findings. He's prepped us for the ability to do a Readiness 360 survey of the congregation, in case Council decides to move forward with that assessment tool. He is overseeing a long overdue membership audit, with a goal to complete the audit before church conference this year. He is coordinating the custom Advent Devotional for this year. He is working with a small group to develop a new, fresh and currently relevant mission statement for the church. He is now a regular part of the worship leadership, on rotation to lead worship once every month to six weeks or so. He is attending various committee meetings for observation and learning. He is doing all this, in addition to his youth coordinator responsibilities, his seminary studies and his ordination process requirements.
- Currently, children's ministries are being conducted by volunteers. Sarah Clegern is coordinating teachers. She is compiling a list of parents and children's ministry volunteers who have agreed to teach for the next six weeks. Phyllis Wehrle is creating curriculum each week. In the meantime, a joint group of FUMC/TUMC/Union folks have met to create a joint job description for a children's coordinator who will support children's ministries and programming for all three ministries. That is being reviewed.
- The fall FUMC 101 class was held on September 22nd. We have had 5 new members join the church since mid-September.
- The Stewardship Campaign for 2025 pledging is almost over. Commitment is this Sunday, October 27th.

- Historic Larimer County's Seventh Annual Holy Places for the Holidays Tour will stop at FUMC at 2:00pm on December 7th. Joanne Scheihing and I met on Thursday, October 24th, to walk through and identify the areas of the church that will be designated for the tour. I will then meet with Melinda Bart and Ginny Angelovic to discuss décor. Those rooms may require some tidying as well. Kathryn will play one or two songs on the organ in the sanctuary as a part of the last stop of the tour. I still need to recruit a historian/docent.

Rev Lee Anderson Harris

For those of you who read the Senior Newsletter, you may have read the article I wrote about how saying yes to God can open doors. I mentioned in my last report that I have been in conversation with Braver Angels. This is a non-profit organization that teaches people depolarization skills and works with groups to meet across divides of various kinds. My intent was to host a workshop open to the greater community. As it turns out, they are looking for a location to partner with so that they can have a hub for northern Colorado! I have scheduled a workshop on February 1, and the hope is that there will be many more to come. In addition, I have been in conversation with Aspen Club, an organization within the UC Health system that provides classes to seniors on a variety of aging-related topics. Their program director reached out to me on reference from Dementia Together, who held a class at the church last year. Aspen Club is also looking for a new space to hold classes; they are a non-profit and also in need of lower-cost rental space. Two classes have been booked for the spring, with more to come. What's more, someone else who volunteers for Aspen Club is compiling a list of low-cost rental options for non-profits, and would like to include FUMC once we have more of those details. What all of this says to me is 1) There is a need in our community that we are meeting, and 2) Something exciting is happening here. These are three opportunities that just came my way with little effort on my part. Is it possible that we are acting in alignment with the Holy Spirit?

In terms of getting *outside* of the building, I did not have much success in getting volunteers for the Heart & Sol Dia de los Muertos project at the time of this writing. I and one other person volunteered, but another announcement will go out in the eblast today so we'll see! Admittedly, while it is my desire to support this organization and their efforts, the service project was not very exciting which could have had an impact. I have scheduled another FUMC Serves day on Saturday, November 16 with the Larimer County Food Bank. The new Volunteer Hub is being utilized, and my hope is that with time people will know to look there for ways to serve.

In other news, the women's retreat on October 19 that was a collaboration between myself and a team from Longs Peak UMC was a great success! About 23 women from FUMC attended, with 60 women total. The feedback was highly positive. The new bread ministry has begun, and members of the congregation who have received a loaf of pumpkin bread have expressed sincere appreciation. Maybe this ministry can be expanded to include first time visitors, as has been done in the past.

It has been an incredibly busy past couple of months for many, but exciting things are happening! I appreciate the thought, work, and leadership this council and others have been providing! In Christ, Lee

Youth Ministries Coordinator, Matthew Utley

Not too many large events have happened with youth since our last meeting. The day before this meeting was our Trunk or Treat event where the youth helped set up, clean up, and run carnival games. We average around 4 - 5 youth in youth group each Sunday. Fall is a busy time for our youth, so I am encouraged by their commitment to still come when they can. I am looking towards planning a Cookie Jar, Ski Trip, and Mission Trip.

Mission Insight Report / Reflection

I have discussed what the mission insight committee had discussed in a previous meeting, but here is a more formal write up of what we found...

- **What is Mission Insight?** Mission Insight is a digital tool provided by the conference for local churches to do research on a set population around the church building. There is an abundance of information provided by this resource including but not limited to; demographics, lifestyle segments, political and religious beliefs, and much more. Part of the reason behind doing this research is to compare how your church does ministry to how people in the community best respond to ministry. In the church council we often ask, "who is in my community?" Mission Insight is designed to answer that question and much more. It will tell who you are missing, who is here, and what they need from a spiritual community.
- **Who did we look at?** We looked at data from the general population around FUMC Loveland within a 5 mile radius.
- **What did Mission Insight Tell us?** Mission Insight told us many things. If I were to include everything in this report it would be about 10 pages long. Here are some highlights from the reports that we discussed...
 - Top 5 Lifestyle Segments (Categories of people in the area).
 - O51 Singles and Starters - Digitally Savvy (Think of people around Matthew's age)
 - J34 Autumn Years - Suburban Sophisticates
 - E20 Thriving Boomers - No Place Like Home
 - C11 Booming with Confidence - Sophisticated City Dwellers
 - F22 Promising Families - Fast Track Couples (Think of Union)

- If you are interested in learning more about the top 5 lifestyle segments in our area follow this link. <https://help.acst.com/en/missioninsite/guides/the-missionimpact-guide> Use the menu on the left to find each segment's code.
- Population in Loveland is growing particularly in younger groups.
- Sunday morning worship is unlikely to attract people in the O51 segment. They are more interested in mission led ministries.
- In the reports around beliefs, we find that people need and desire a sense of connection within a community.
- Loveland is fairly divided with progressive and traditional ideas - particularly in church.
 - A significant number of people in Loveland cited both being too traditional and progressive as reasons for leaving church.
- While the number of people who attend a Methodist church in Loveland has decreased, the amount of people who identify as Methodist has not changed significantly.
- **What does this mean for us?** Mission Insight allows for us to identify who is already in our church community and how we can/do fulfill their spiritual needs. It can also allow us to identify who is not in the church and how we might be able to reach those groups of people. We cannot please everyone, but if there is a large group of people in Loveland that we do not see at church (O51 for start) we can learn more about what we can be doing in ministry to reach that group of people. Finally, Mission Insight should not only be used once or on rare occasions, but as a regular tool we refer to as we make decisions as leaders of our church community.

If you would like additional information, reports, or takeaways from this committee please feel free to talk to Matthew Utey. Leslie Wood, Janeen Anderson, Keith Flaming, and John Kindred were also all part of this committee and may be able to provide some of their own unique perspectives/experiences.

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

Music Coordinator, Kathryn Peiffer

Nov. 3 – Chancel Choir, Neal Anderson – solo, Neal & Dave Mills – flute/vocal duet
 Nov. 10 – Chancel Choir, Timmy Vanderwall – marimba
 Nov. 17 – Spirit Sounds Bell Choir
 Nov. 24 – Chancel Choir, Gil Garcia – trumpet

Looking ahead – the chancel choir is working on a Christmas cantata to be presented Dec. 8 at 10:00 AM. If you'd like to join us for this, please come on W. at 7:15 when we'll rehearse the cantata. This will give interested people the opportunity to sing with us for just a 5-week commitment. Please contact Nicole Ceciliani if you have questions.

Choir Director, Nicole Ceciliani

Bell Choir Director, Susan Harding

We were blessed to get more chimes from the abiding memorial Funds to complete a full 4 Octaves. We used the big chimes in church on Sept. 29 and will again in December.
 The 12 Bell Small but Mighty Handbell Ensemble will be playing at the
 3rd Annual Loveland Community Christmas Concert 2024
 Friday November 22, 7PM at the First United Presbyterian Church 400 E 4th St.

Lay Leader, Janeen Anderson
 Staff Parish, John Morgan

Finance, Rick Tessean

Rick sent out the minutes from the meeting last week. If you need them resent, please let me know.

Trustees, Richard Kittel
 Abiding Memorials, Betty Hill
 Stewardship, John Kindred

Missions and Social Concerns, Barry Wehrle

The Mission Committee has not met since my last report to CC. We will meet again on Nov. 5. Most important business will be selecting the recipients of our Christmas offering. Our Prison Fellowship giving us underway and we are receiving children's names right now. We'll be announcing dates for this soon.

Marketing & Outreach, Andrea Ortega

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