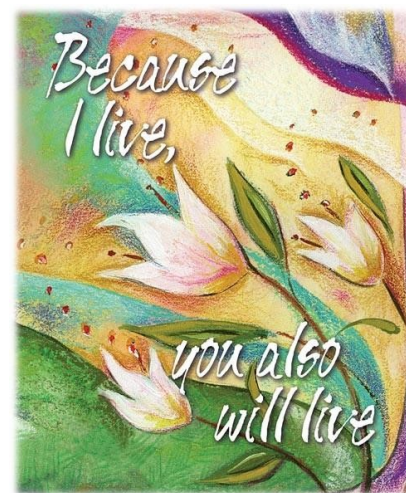




FUMC Loveland

April 2024

Senior Newsletter



Building One Another Up

By Rev. Lee Anderson-Harris

"Therefore encourage one another, and build one another up..." 1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NIV)

In the March newsletter, I talked about re-visioning use of the church building, specifically in ways that serve the community while bringing new life to the church. I have been part of conversations with other churches who rent various parts of their buildings to individuals and groups. One of the ways some of these churches use their building is by offering space at an affordable rate to people trying to establish their own careers, but who can't afford space elsewhere. This includes office space, artist studios, or counseling offices, for instance. Hearing this has made me realize that there are more ways of being in solidarity with people in their real-life challenges than I realized; more ways of being in the community than I imagined before.

At the Colorado Front Range District gathering on March 9, I attended a talk led by a UM pastor in the district called "Living as though the gospel were true." He spoke about his own transformational experience as a pastor serving the poor alongside members of the church. The church had a food pantry, and in keeping with the regulations outlined for federal food assistance, they asked recipients how much money they made and other questions that tended to emphasize their poverty. One church member asked if the church believed that all people are of worth, and the pastor said an emphatic yes, to which she replied, "Then how come we're not acting like it?" This was a turning point in the ministry. As people came to receive food, volunteers stopped asking about how poor they were, and instead started asking what their gifts and skills were, even the question "What is something you know so well that you can teach it to others?" And then they would help them use those gifts and skills. Church members helped make arrangements for these folks to teach seminars at the church or provide services...all on a donation basis so the person could earn some money...and one person was even able to launch a successful new business as a result! The pastor brought this experience to his next church, and church members there were inspired to begin a ministry of simply getting to know their neighbors, who were mostly low-income. People knocked on their doors and asked similar questions, and created a network of neighbors helping neighbors. Community members began thriving more, even experiencing measurable health improvements.

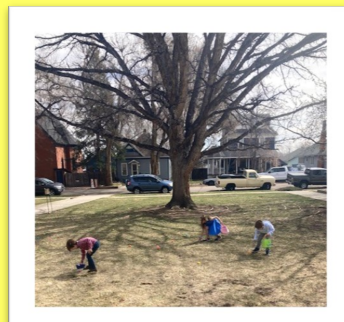
(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

Incredible! It really is “living as though the gospel were true.” Church members were bringing the light and love of Christ into their communities. They didn’t expect the people they served to join the church. They didn’t preach to them. They just made their lives better.

As FUMC leadership continues to ask “How do we BE the church today and into the future?”, I am excited to see what unfolds as people inspire one another to imagine new ways of blessing and serving the community. And it is not just with the building that we can do this. Nor do we have to go outside of FUMC to build one another up. There are people within the church who may be feeling a nudge toward starting a new ministry, for one...a calling placed on their hearts. How can people encourage one another to say yes to those callings, and even help make it happen? Are there ways you have identified that tend to discourage people from trying something? Do you think you are an encourager, or do you get in the way sometimes? It is good to have people who honestly help us think through ideas. But depending on the situation, criticism and questioning can be more discouraging than helpful. “Therefore encourage one another, and build one another up.”

Palm Sunday processional and Easter egg hunt...a good day to be a child!



An Easter Season Reflection

By Rev. Lee Anderson-Harris

In the gospels of Mark and Matthew, Jesus’s followers were given the missive to “go and tell.” First, the women who discovered the empty tomb were told to go and tell the others what had happened. Jesus later tells his disciples to go into the world and carry his message. Whether we use words or actions, we are to bring the living Christ into the world, to share it with others. What new life has God given you so that you want to go and tell? Often, the ways we share the hope of new life come in the gifts we ourselves have received from Christ. From what we receive, we can give.

I see this in people’s vocations, whether those are paying jobs or volunteer work. Someone who has recovered from an addiction becomes an addictions counselor. A person who has escaped a life of violence helps others find freedom. A cancer survivor offers their friendship to others in the church who receive a cancer diagnosis. Someone who moved from poverty to wealth gives generously to others trying to start a new career. To live as Easter people means we not only believe in hope, but *share* hope as well. Resurrection happens all around, and we are invited to be a part of it!

Symbols of Hope

Lyle Gilroy wrote this piece of appreciation, as he was inspired by the time and talent given toward an important need. Thank you Lyle, and thank you to the quilters!

The Lions of Colorado and Wyoming are looking for quilters to provide quilts for kids with cancer. These quilts will be donated to kids suffering from cancer and undergoing hospital treatment.

The "Saturday Morning Quilters" from Loveland, Colorado immediately stepped forward. The Saturday Morning Quilters, many of whose members are members of the First United Methodist Church, include Kay Neckel, Cees Morgan, Pam Darrah, Bonnie Coleman, Madonna Adams, and Judy Graff. Harvey Hirning does the machine quilting.

The Lions' goal is to provide 120 quilts to kids suffering from childhood cancer and who are going through life-saving treatment and staying at Brent's place in Denver, CO. Imagine what a simple act of kindness can mean for a child facing such a frightening path.

These quilters will be donating ten quilts for this blessed opportunity to help these children, giving them something to hold and cuddle in their lengthy stay in Denver. The Loveland Lions Club is sponsoring this event.

You Are Invited to a Garden Party!

Join your friends of all ages and genders outside at FUMC on Sunday, May 12 following the worship service. Family Outreach Ministries is hosting this celebration for anyone who has ever had a mother or been a mother. Watch The Window and other communications for more information.

Getting to Know You

Barb Webb writes:

I was born and baptized a Methodist. I grew up in Tulsa, OK, and married my "soulmate" in 1960. We had two daughters. When I lost Tom in 2004, I moved to our "retirement home" on Grand Lake and lived by myself for 19 years. I absolutely loved it there. I taught yoga and knitting at my church, South Grand Lake Christian Church Disciples of Christ, and knew nearly everyone in my one spotlight town (Langley, OK)!! But, when I turned 80 I began to think about my move to CO. My oldest daughter and I bought a home together in Berthoud. I have two granddaughters (in Highlands Ranch and Erie - both nurses!) I also have two great-grandchildren (16 & 12 - recently baptized - PTL!). I am finally (after two years) accepting this is God's plan for me and am learning to love this beautiful state. I am so glad I found FUMC - I feel very welcome here.



April/Early May Birthdays

April 1

Barb Franke

April 9

Cathy Haines

April 21

Keith Cox

May 2

Ed Frey

April 2

Marilynn Addington
Jackie Gruber

April 10

Lynda Smith

April 24

Carole Ware

May 3

John DeMallie
Bill Eads

April 5

Maribeth Cate
Ron Dahl
Susan Garcia

April 12

Brian Peterson

April 25

Joyce Abrams
Ann Frost
Elayne Severson

May 4

Stephanie Dye

April 6

Phyllis Wehrle

April 18

Mindy Stiverson

April 28

Barbara Peterson

April 8

Mary McCreary

April 20

John Kindred
Janet Knox

April 29

Bob Eatman

April 30

Grace Haskins

Resource for Aging Well

InnovAge PACE (Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly) help seniors stay living independently and safely by providing healthcare, transportation, homecare for bathing, light housekeeping, etc., social activities at InnovAge centers nearby, and much more – commonly at no cost to them.

970-410-3469

Innovage.com/about-pace

[Contact Us]

Pastor Leslie:

leslie@fumcleveland.com

Office: (970) 667-0876

Cell: (719) 650-9449

Pastor Lee:

lee@fumcleveland.com

Office: (970) 667-0876

Cell: (303) 506-6724