



FUMC Nameless Newsletter (for now)

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First United Methodist Church Loveland

Contact Us:

lee@fumcloveland.com

leslie@fumcloveland.com

lzgerwing@gmail.com

huntman55@comcast.net

Your newsletter has returned! Taking over the reins from Shirley Reed will be Lyndsay Gerwing and Billie Huntman. Both were English majors in college. Lyndsay is an assistant editor at Group Publishing here in Loveland. Billie, Lyndsay's mother, is a retired English, speech, and journalism teacher from Indiana. She recently moved to spend time with her children and grandchildren who live in Loveland and Boerne, Texas. Those who attend the 8:30 service might recognize them in the choir (when Billie's not in Texas).

Since they are both new to FUMC, they will need help with ideas for this newsletter, including items such as a list of events for FUMC's seniors, features on your unique stories, ways people are serving and living out their faith, upcoming Bible studies, and written reflections from members of the congregation. Photos and original artwork are encouraged.

Submissions will be due on the 15th of each month. Contributions should have appropriate content (no personal ads, no political statements or divisive theological opinions, please).

As you can see, this monthly newsletter is nameless. Anyone who has a good idea is encouraged to suggest a name that is appropriate for our readers. We want this newsletter to be something you will look forward to each month!





Looking to Spring

By Billie Huntteman

Read Luke 8:5-8.

By the time this is printed, spring will be upon us. When I think of spring, I often think of my parents and planting a garden. On our southeastern Indiana farm, we lived off the land to a large extent. Even when we moved from the farm and headed north, we always had a garden.

I can remember, after my dad's death, looking at the garden plot that would need to be prepared without Dad. I promised myself I would help Mom with the garden. I did get off to a good start with help from my brothers in preparing the ground. As the time went on, I could see the results of our efforts. Plants were springing up. The garden was beautiful.

Then obligations and distractions—like teaching, grading papers, and taking my children to activities—kept me from getting to the garden as often as I had planned.

While I was distracted, the garden continued to grow...and so did the weeds. When I would get back to the garden, it looked overgrown with weeds. It was not the beautiful garden I had dreamed it would be.

That's exactly how it often happens with other things I truly mean to do: having more prayer time, studying Scripture, including more devotions, serving others, and the like. It's not as though I have to make lesson plans, grade papers, or take my grown children to activities. Regardless, I often become distracted by other things—things my dad might say "didn't amount to a hill of beans."

Loving Lord, please help me to know what's truly important and to know and do your will every day. Amen.

Below is a snapshot list of events, groups, and ways to serve that has been curated just for our readers. There is always more going on, so check out The Window or go to www.fumcloveland.com for the bigger picture.

Upcoming Events and New Groups

For more information on each of these, please see The Window.

Beginning March 3: 10-week Guided Autobiography Class. Contact Clay at pclaycarter@gmail.com or (970) 616-9686 (calls or texts).

April 10: Palm Sunday

April 17: Easter

April 22: Earth Day Celebration (stay tuned for more information)

Coffee with the Pastor: every 2nd & 4th Thursday from 8:30-9:30am by Zoom. Join Pastor Leslie for coffee (tea?) and conversation. To access the Zoom link, visit www.fumcloveland.com and click on Groups & Events.

Hands to Hearts Ministry: A knitting, crocheting and sewing prayer ministry that constructs gifts for babies in Neonatal ICUs and blankets for cancer patients. If you would like to join this group, please contact Shirley Reed at Shirley.Lnsfarms@gmail.com or 308-665-5934.

Jack Gill is starting an FUMC Creative Writing Club. If interested, please contact Jack Gill at jack.transformance@gmail.com or call him at (970) 515-5599.

There are several groups and classes that are ongoing! If you would like assistance finding information about these opportunities, please contact Pastor Lee at (970) 667-0876 or lee@fumcloveland.com.

Ways to Serve From Home or In Person

Call & Connect: This program helps more isolated members stay connected. As a caller, you will receive the names of a few members to call each month for check-in and conversation. Contact Pastor Lee at lee@fumcloveland.com or 970-667-0876.

Charity Quilt Group: Meets the 2nd Saturday of each month. Experience is not required; we have quilters ranging from beginners to more experienced. We have sewing machines available for your use. Call Kay Neckel at 970-663-3434 for more information.

Children's Ministry is looking for volunteers to hang out with kids in the nursery on Monday evenings from 4:00-6:00 weekly, monthly, or occasionally. Contact Ann Kessler at akessler@fumcloveland.com or 970-290-2796 for more information.

Have a heart for hospitality? We are rebuilding in the areas of greeters, providing hospitality for funeral receptions, and more. Contact Pastor Lee to talk as we explore what's possible at (970) 667-0876 or lee@fumcloveland.com.

Ways to Receive Care

FUMC Bus: If you would like a ride to church or have questions about riding the church bus, please contact Roger Williams at 970-980-8228. (Please call after 4:00pm.)

Prayer Shawls: If you would like a hand-knitted prayer shawl so you can wrap yourself in prayers, contact Pastor Lee at (970) 667-0876 or lee@fumcloveland.com.

Prayer & Care Ministry: If you could use some prayers, extra connection during a challenging time, or just feel like you want some additional connection to FUMC, please contact Pastor Lee (970) 667-0876 or lee@fumcloveland.com.

Pastoral Care Emergencies: If you need to speak with a pastor right away in the evening or on a weekend (Friday and Saturday for our pastors), please don't hesitate to call their cell phone. Pastor Lee can be reached at (303) 506-6724 and Pastor Leslie can be reached at (719) 650-9449.

Legacy Giving Seminar

Mark your calendars for a two-part Legacy Giving Seminar held at FUMC on March 20 and 27. Our seminar will meet, in person and via Zoom, from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm on both days. The first week will be an interactive workshop on ethical wills or legacy letters. Complete details can be found at this link: <https://www.fumcloveland.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Ethical-Will.pdf>. The second week we will deal with important issues regarding estate planning. We will discuss wills, probate, trusts, Power of Attorneys, and other documents that are important when preparing an estate plan. We need to have adequate preparations made to remember our loved ones, favorite charities, and our church at the end of our lives. There is no cost for these seminars, but we are asking you to register so we can be sure to have adequate space. Please register for this event at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E45AAAE2DA6FF2-fumc1>.