



**First United Methodist
Church Loveland**

Contact Us:

lee@fumcloveland.com

leslie@fumcloveland.com

lzgerwing@gmail.com

hunteman55@comcast.net



Senior Newsletter

April 2022

Holy Week and Easter Sunday at FUMC

Palm Sunday...*For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory*...On April 10th we will celebrate with the masses as we remember Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, (while keeping in mind what is coming).

Maundy Thursday...April 14th, step into our faith story. Remember how that night began, in the Upper Room. Come share an experience of Holy Communion in Coy Hall. There will be two seatings. The first will begin at 6:15 p.m., the second starts at 6:45 p.m.

Then spend some time reflecting on Jesus' Passion at the Stations of the Cross display in Lobby Court. This display will feature a selection of photographs of pieces from The Stations of the Cross, commissioned and sculpted by Loveland's George Lundeen for The Cloister on the Platte in Nebraska.

Finally, be a witness, through music, of Jesus' sacrificial love through the Chancel Choir's performance of *The Seven Last Words of Christ from the Cross*, by Théodore Dubois. The choir is under the direction of Chris White and will feature a chamber orchestra made up of area musicians. The cantata begins at 7:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday...Are you ready for renewal?

Transformation? Joy? On Easter Sunday we will praise the Risen Christ together. During our two services at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m., we will worship together, transforming our sanctuary from darkness to light, and our hearts from mourning to rejoicing, proclaiming "I know my Redeemer lives!"



Covid 19 UPDATES

COVID UPDATE

Effective immediately, masks—though still encouraged—are not required inside the church building, **NO EXCEPTIONS**. Congregational singing, choirs, ensembles, and soloists are free to sing without masks. All instrumentalists are free to play without masks or instrument coverings.

Fellowship time and potlucks will soon return.

This protocol will remain in place unless/until COVID conditions change and Larimer County imposes new mandates.

The Seven Last Words

On Maundy Thursday, April 14, at 7:30 p.m., the Chancel Choir will perform Théodore Dubois' renowned cantata *The Seven Last Words of Christ on the Cross*. The work dramatically portrays in music the seven statements uttered by Jesus during his crucifixion. The Chancel Choir will be accompanied by a chamber orchestra. Bryan Kettlewell, the Director of Choirs at Thompson Valley High School and former singer with the Rocky Mountain Chamber Singers will sing the role of Jesus. Other roles will be performed by members of the Chancel Choir, including John Morgan and Sarah and Benjamin Clegern.

Théodore Dubois (1837-1924) was a French composer and organist. After graduating from the Paris Conservatory, he served as organist and choirmaster at several prominent churches in Paris, and later served at the Conservatory as a professor and Director. Though he aspired to be an opera composer and produced several works, he is better known for his sacred compositions. It is quite possible, that Dubois assigned Ravel, a student at the Conservatory at the time, the task of orchestrating the work.

In many ways *The Seven Last Words* is an oratorio rather than a cantata—it tells a story in music with role portrayals by the soloists, choir and orchestra. The choir functions as the crowd witnessing the crucifixion. In the beginning the crowd mocks Jesus; however, the crowd is gradually transformed by Jesus' suffering, Jesus' forgiveness, and the tragedy of Mary's grief at the death of her son. The crowd closes the work with the liturgical chorus, "Christ, we do all adore Thee" (*Adoramus Te*). The orchestra not only accompanies the soloists but subtly adds to the portrayal of events. For instance, the harp plays only whenever Jesus is singing ... except when he sings, "Father, why has Thou forsaken me?" Later, the orchestra plays a passage simulating the earthquake that followed the tearing of the temple veil. Overall, it is a powerful and moving depiction of the event.

Earlier in the evening, the pastors are planning a unique Sacrament of Communion in Coy Hall. Then those attending can view in the lobby a display telling the story behind George Lundeen's remarkable contributions to The Stations of the Cross, the world-renowned sculptures at The Cloisters.



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

Palm Sunday
April 10

Easter
April 17

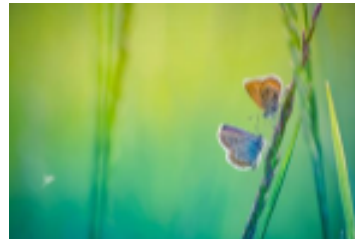
Earth Day Celebration
April 22

Cuisine, Catch-up and
Conversation Potluck
April 3, 12:15 p.m., Coy Hall

Events

Earth Day Celebration—April 22, 2022

Join FUMC & TUMC in the parking lot of Trinity UMC for an earth day celebration. Come decorate a pot, plant some seeds, and enjoy an ice cream sundae. There will be activities for the children and fellowship time for adults. Bring a lawn chair. 4:30-6:00 in the northwest corner of the parking lot. If possible, park on a side street or at Safeway and walk across the street.



Groups

Coffee with the Pastor: Every 2nd & 4th Thursday from 8:30-9:30 a.m. 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.transformation@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 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 4:00 p.m.)

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.

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.

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Masks Optional

Limit to 14 Participants

RSVP AT LEAST 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE

