

LUMC CONNECTION

Rev. Trudy D Robinson

Pastor's Pen



OCTOBER 2018

ATTENDANCE AVERAGE:

Average attendance for the
8:30 Service - 149

Average attendance for the
11:00 Service - 194

Average Total attendance - 343

THOUGHTS & PRAYERS:

Please keep the friends and family of Bev Lowrimore, Wife of John Lowrimore; Beverly Hilleary, Wife of Hugh Hilleary; Jackie Ingenthron, Mother of Dez Guerrie; Edwin Renninson, Father of Keith Renninson; Mike Lindquist, Husband of Joy Mercer; Norma Embry, Mother of Bill Embry, Jr; Bill Embry, Father of Bill Embry, Jr. during their time of loss.

Coming Up ...

Mark your calendars now for next summer's all-church production of the musical *"Bye, Bye Birdie"*. Performances will be June 28, 29 and 30, 2019. Everyone is invited to be a part of this show. Auditions will be held on Saturday, March 16. Sign-up to be a part of the ensemble (all ages are invited) or audition for a lead role. Look for more information in 2019. Questions? Please contact Kelly at kateshouse@earthlink.net.

The Dawning of Indestructible Joy

In a culture where Christianity is often depicted in narrow terms, with pious intolerance, disconnected theologies, or ridiculous caricatures, I long for something deeper. Don't you?

In a time when life is busy, people are fearful, and hope turns cynical, I long for a community that will help me be grounded in something bigger than myself, that refuses to give in to fear and will not give up hope. Don't you?

In a world where new is better, old is replaced, objects are disposable, and nothing seems to last, I long for something that cannot be destroyed, discarded or neglected. Don't you?

In these circumstances, we can easily go through the motions. Let's not. Not this year. Let's approach Advent and Christmas with our eyes wide open for something indestructible, our hearts ready for joy, and our lives willing to reflect the deep truth that changes everything.

The Dawning of Indestructible Joy is the title of our Advent and Christmas messages this year. It is the same title of a devotional book written by John Piper. I invite you to join me in using these daily readings. Purchase your own book through your favorite book seller or at cokesbury.com.

John Piper writes in the preface, "I am prone to be dull, spiritually drowsy, half-hearted, luke-warm...What you and I need is usually not a brand-new teaching. Brand-new truths are probably not truths. What we need are reminders about the greatness of old truths. We need someone to say an old truth in a fresh way. Or sometimes, just to say it."

The Christmas story is full of old truths. So old they can be familiar to us. We hear them every year and most of us could repeat the story by heart. And yet, the story has more truths within them than we often notice. This Advent and Christmas season, let's notice. Let's give them a second thought, and pay attention to how those truths continue to speak to us 2,000 years later.

The Advent season begins with our Advent Festival on December 2nd. This is for all of us in the church. If you have never seen all the children, youth, and young families of the church gather, this is the event you need to see. The Children's Ministry are hosting a Cookie Extravaganza, the Fine Arts Series and the Littleton Symphony Orchestra host a very special concert on December 7 and 8. The Children will present a Christmas pageant on December 16th. We will celebrate the greatest truth of all, God with us, at our Christmas Eve Worship services at noon, 5:30, 7:30, and 11pm (For more information, see additional articles in this newsletter or call the church office.)

Don't settle for anything less than the indestructible joy that comes from knowing the lengths to which God will go to find you, to love you, to give you hope, and to bless our lives.

Happy Advent! Merry Christmas!

-Rev. Trudy

Music Notes

Hymn for the Season

Some have asked about the meaning of the Advent hymn “Lo, how a Rose e’er blooming.” The poem is truly a golden oldie, as it was composed in late 15th century Germany. (The tune came about 20 years later.) It is rich in scripture references and imagery. The rose blooming from a tender stem in the dark and cold of winter, is a metaphor for Jesus’ birth (Isaiah 35), and its beauty shining in a German winter’s night, represents Christ’s redeeming love for the world.

*Lo, how a Rose e’er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse’s lineage coming, as those of old have sung.
It came a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half
spent was the night.*

*Isaiah ‘twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind;
With Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind.
To show God’s love aright, she bore to us a Savior, when half
spent was the night.*

*O Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
Dispel in glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.
True man yet very God, from sin and death now save us, and
share our every load.*



A Littleton Christmas

7:30pm - Friday, Dec. 7 & Saturday, Dec. 8

The Littleton Symphony Orchestra will team up with the LUMC Chancel Choir to host a special Christmas celebration for the entire Littleton community. Joining the orchestra and choir will be The Troubadours of Littleton High School, The Denver Bronze handbell choir and dancers from the Littleton Ballet Academy. Come hear festive carols, movements from Tchaikovsky’s Nutcracker and other holiday favorites at this festive concert that is sure to put you in the Christmas spirit! Tickets (\$22, \$19 & \$5) will be available at the door or online at littletonsymphony.org.

Holiday Music at LUMC

Saturday, December 1, 11:00am

Voices West

Carols for Kids - A fun concert for children with a sing along, treats and a visit from Santa. Tickets available at the door or on line at www.voiceswest.org.

Monday, December 31, 6:00pm

Littleton Symphony Orchestra

New Year’s Eve: A Night in Vienna - traditional waltzes, polkas and overtures. Tickets available at the door or on line at www.littletonsymphony.org.

Thank Christmas Eve Musicians & Ministers

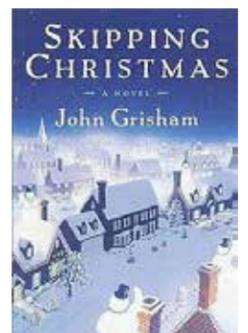
Want to show your appreciation for our musicians and for the clergy who spend Christmas Eve leading our worship services? Consider bringing a dish to the choir room hallway by 6:00 on Christmas Eve. If you’re interested, please contact David Kates at 303-794-6379, ext 247 or davidkates@littletonumc.org for details.

“Summer Choir” December 30

All are welcome to join the choir for the service on Sunday, December 30. Students home from college, Summer Choir participants – everyone who wants to make a joyful noise on this special last Sunday of the year. Come early to rehearse. For more info contact David Kates.

Gems to be found in the LUMC Library for the Christmas Season

A classic tale for modern times is *Skipping Christmas* by John Grisham. Luther and Nora Krank have decided to skip Christmas with all its crowded malls, decorations, corny parties and the hustle and bustle.



On December 25

they will set sail on a Caribbean cruise. They discover that skipping Christmas brings enormous consequences and wasn’t as easy as imagined.

Also recommended: *The Christmas Candle* by Max Lucado and *The First*



Christmas by Marcus J Borg.

Cherrelyn Christmas Cheer

Every year we give 50 gift bags for residents of Cherrelyn Care Center who have no family here. The Children’s Area and Church and Society Committee are sponsoring this project. We need your help in fulfilling the “wish gift” of each resident.

To Help: Find the ornament tree on the board in the Breezeway.

Choose the ornament with the gift you could supply. (new or gently used)

Bring the unwrapped gift with the room number clearly marked.

Place the gift in the box in the Breezeway by Dec 9.

We also need 50 of these general items:

Shampoo Conditioner Lotion Socks

Or, you may donate a check to LUMC with Cherrelyn in the memo line and we will shop for you.

Children's Ministry News

Advent Festival is here! Be sure to come out for the Advent Festival on December 2nd. Dinner at 4:30pm. We'll have crafts for children of all ages, watch the Puppet Team share the Christmas Spirit through music. Join us to send up our Christmas wishes and prayers through the beloved tradition of hanging the paper chain on the Sanctuary Christmas tree and bless the new Chrismons created by our fourth graders. Puppets meet at 4:00 in Fellowship Hall for final rehearsal. Hanging of the Greens service 6:30.

Angel Tree – Be sure to stop past the Christmas Display located in the breezeway for the month of December as the Children's area collects socks and underwear to benefit local families; feminine hygiene products for use in a Saturday "Hospitality" basket located in the women's rest room for our neighbors; and boxed rice & pastas to benefit East Elementary school's ongoing food pantry needs.

Children's Council Meeting Tuesday, December 11th. Open to all parents and adults interested in supporting Children's Ministries by participating in Children's Council activities.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, January 15th from 7-8:00 pm. For more information about meetings or involvement contact Lisa Perkins LPerkins@LittletonUMC.org or Jenn Herrera jennherrera79@gmail.com and indicate child care needs.

Children's Pageant: All of LUMC is invited to support the 60+ children of our church by attending the Children's Christmas Pageant on December 16th in 9:45am in the sanctuary. Cookie Reception to follow in Grant Fellowship Hall. Final Dress Rehearsal will be from 9:30-11:00 am on Saturday, December 15th.

Movie Night: The Children's Council is hosting "The Star" on December 16th in the Reception Hall. Pizza, Cookies, Cocoa, Craft and fellowship with this beloved Christmas Tradition. Dinner begins at: 5:00, Movie runs from 5:30 to about 6:30. Be on the lookout for the SignupGenius or just email Lisa Perkins LPerkins@LittletonUMC.org or Jenn Herrera jennherrera79@gmail.com.

No Wesley's Wednesday Night Puppet Team on December 19th, 26th or January 2nd.

Happy Birthday Jesus! The children will have Children's Worship at both services and celebrate the Birth of Christ during the Sunday school hour on December 23rd! Child care available for 5:00 & 7:30 Christmas Eve services.

Get ready to ring in a New Year by joining us on Sunday, December 30th with Pastries and Parents during the Sunday school hour. We'll nosh on delicious breakfast treats, play games, make our Epiphany Sunday crowns and share our resolutions for the New Year.

SAVE THE DATE! The Annual Talent Show is scheduled for Sunday, January 27th! All acts have a deadline of January 22nd to be included in our awesome lineup.

Youth News

LUMC Advent Festival

On Sunday, December 2nd, Youth will be hosting pictures with Santa at the all-church Advent Festival at 4:30pm. Youth, wear your "Christmas-iest" attire (elf attire, Christmas sweaters, jingle bells, etc.) and join us in Grant Fellowship Hall for dinner, caroling, and pictures with Santa before we move into the sanctuary for a brief Hanging of the Greens worship service led by CrossFire. (CrossFire will rehearse early at 3:30pm on Dec. 2nd.)

Youth Christmas Party

Sunday, December 9th from 2:00 - 4:30pm

It's time for our annual youth Christmas party- we'll be celebrating with food, fellowship, and a gift exchange. The

party will be off site at the home of one of our families- all youth please meet at the Way Station at 2:00pm and bring \$5 for food, a gender-neutral wrapped gift (\$5 value or less), and your favorite Christmas snack/dessert to share. We will return to the Way Station by 4:30pm.

New Year's Eve Celebration

Sunday, December 30th – Murder Mystery Dinner

Middle School youth will meet from 3:00pm - 6:00pm, and High School youth will meet from 5:30 - 9:00pm. All youth will enjoy dinner together from 5:30 - 6:00pm. The cost is \$5/youth, and friends are welcome to join us! We will meet offsite – look for more details in December's Prophet youth newsletter, or contact Becky @ (303)587-0826 / blichlyter@littletonumc.org for more information.

Gathering for local Methodists!!

Circuit Charge Conference

December 9, 2018 ~ 2 - 5 p.m.

The people of Littleton United Methodist Church are invited to join others from Hope UMC, St. Luke's UMC, St. Andrew UMC, and Heritage UMC to spend an afternoon together sharing our witness, accomplishments, concerns and deepest hopes for the United Methodist Church. This is our Annual Charge Conference where we briefly recognize each church and review the annual business. This year, it is also an opportunity for us to come together as Methodist to talk about the direction of the church and what might happen, or might not, at the special General Conference in February.

The event is hosted at Hope UMC on December 9th from 2 - 5 p.m. Please join us for a time of conversation, information, and encouragement. For more information, please contact Rev. Trudy at revtrudy@littletonumc.org.

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Activate Love, Transform Lives, Change The World

Alternative Christmas Giving

Consider alternative gift giving on holidays and birthdays by making a donation in someone's honor to Break Bread, Ganta United Methodist Hospital, Liberia; UMCOR (United Methodist Committee On Relief). Just write your check to LUMC with the advance number or "Break Bread" on the memo line and give a gift card to the person you are honoring.

Break Bread – Support our Community Meal served weekly in Grant Fellowship Hall;

Ganta United Methodist Hospital, Liberia. Our church covenant relationship is with Dr. Albert Willicor, Chief Medical Officer at Ganta United Methodist Hospital. - Advance # 15080N

United Methodist Committee On Relief - Advance # 901440

Other UMCOR Advance numbers are listed on www.umcor.org.

If you have any questions, contact Missions Committee member LaDonna Gravelle at 303-771-4302.

Spotlight on Scouting

The fall has been a busy one for Scouting. The Troop has climbed a 14er, went fishing, explored a new "spooky" camp, and taught leadership to Cub Scouts. Luke Reigel organized a group of Scouts to help at Break Bread and the s'mores were a huge hit! Nick Failor had a crew of Scouts for the fall grounds cleanup at LUMC. In December, Jonah Day will be leading to Troop as they place wreaths at Fort Logan as part of Wreaths Across America. The Troop also celebrated the achievements of our Scouts with the Fall Court of Honor in October where over 120 merit badge

awards and 18 rank advancements were recognized.

A new Troop for girls will be starting Feb 1, 2019. If you know of girls ages 11-17 that may be interested, information is available at www.troop-114.org/girls.

Pack 114 has 40 Cub Scouts that are also off to a busy start with various den activities. In November, they participated in the Pocket Flag Project folding flags for active duty deployed or deploying soldiers.

If you ordered holiday greens, they will be distributed on Sunday, Dec 2nd in GFH. There will be limited extras, so stop by to check if you missed out on ordering. Thank you for your continued support!

UMW News

Faith Circle has changed their meeting time from the second Tuesday morning to the second Tuesday afternoon at 1:00 in the parlor. Now there are afternoon and evening groups on the second Tuesday and morning and afternoon groups on the second Thursday of the month. Contact information is available on the LUMC website: www.littletonumc.church under adult ministries.

All are welcome to join us on Saturday, December 15th when the annual Christmas Brunch will be held in Grant Fellowship Hall at 10:00am. This festive event will include food, decorations and holiday music. Young Voices of Colorado will perform a choral holiday program. Please make your reservation by calling the church office by Tuesday, December 11th. Also, UMW Circle groups may choose to see the brunch as their December gathering and not come together at their regularly scheduled time, but those meetings will resume in January 2019.

Sunday, December 2nd - Advent Festival

"An Old Fashioned Christmas"

This year we hope to bring "memories of Christmas past" to all who attend the Advent Festival. Each of the Adult Sunday School classes will bring foods that remind them of their childhood Christmases. We will have Christmas crafts for kids of all ages, Santa will make a special appearance and carols will be sung.

Things will start earlier this year, at 4:30pm. If anyone needs a ride, we are planning to have the church bus available and maybe ride sharing. Contact the church office for more info. After the meal and crafts we will adjourn to the sanctuary for

the hanging of the greens and more carols. That will be at about 6pm.

Transportation Opportunities

This year we would like all church members to have the opportunity to attend our Christmas Eve Service. As we realize that many of you do not drive, especially at night, we will be providing transportation to several holiday events using the church bus. If you do not drive and would like to attend

December 2018

this service, please call the church office (303-794-6379) to schedule a ride. This will allow time for planning a pick-up route and scheduling pick-up times. Our Christmas Eve Service is Dec. 24 at 7:30pm. Please contact us by Mon., Dec. 17