



First United Methodist Church, Loveland, CO
November 23, 2025

Our mission: Loveland FUMC strives to bless and serve our local and world communities while living the teachings of Jesus Christ. We accept people as they are and strive to live in harmony with God and all of divine creation.

FEEDING OUR NEIGHBORS UPDATE

First, thank you for your donations so far! During the Friendsgiving meal on November 16, \$414 was collected to give to the Food Bank of Larimer County! And, we took two car loads of food to Truscott on November 17! Thank you for feeding our neighbors! There is still a need and opportunity to give, so read on:



Although SNAP benefits are being restored, many still need help with food during this time. There are two ways you can give to folks in need, now through Thanksgiving:

- Truscott Elementary has started a food pantry for their families and has asked FUMC to help stock it. Their families in need are looking for these items: rice (1 or 2 lb bags), canned soup, canned pinto beans, pasta and cereal. These shelf-stable items will go a long way. You can bring these items to the church on Sundays or during office hours (M-Th 8-3, Fri 8-12). Look for the Truscott collection table in Lobby Court.
- You can make a financial donation that will be given to the Food Bank of Larimer County. Bring or mail a check made out to First United Methodist Church with Food Bank or FBLC in the memo line. Or, donate online at fumcloveland.org, click Give & Support, and make a one-time donation with Food Bank or FBLC typed into the "write a note" section.



CHURCH DECORATING DAY NOV 24

Come help decorate the church for Advent! Meet in the sanctuary on November 24th at 9:00am to lend a hand in beautifying the building for this special season. No need to RSVP, just show up! Thank you for your help!

TABLE TOP NATIVITY DISPLAY NEEDED

Help us create a unique and lovely Advent Candle wreath display this year. We are in need of 2 small, table top sized nativity sets approximately 4 to 8 inches high that will fit on a round pedestal approximately 1.5 feet in diameter. If you have a display – from any culture or style – that you can loan to us for Advent and Christmas, please contact Melinda Bart at mbart6868@gmail.com by this Sunday, November 23rd. (Note: An Advent Candle will be placed near each of the Nativities, so displays made out of husks, straws, paper or any other such flammable materials will not be used.)

ADVENT BOOK STUDY

With all the war and unrest in the Holy Land these past two years, this year's **Advent Book Study** will shed light on the land and people that have called Palestine home in heart and hearth for thousands of years. [*The First Advent in Palestine: Reversals, Resistance, and the Ongoing Complexity of Hope*](#) by Kelley Nikondeha will put the Advent story in its historical context and help us gain a new understanding of the tumultuous times in which that first Christmas took place and illustrate the connections that make this scripture story all the more relevant for our world today. Join Pastors Leslie, Lee and Bryson in **Serenity Center (Fellowship Hall)**, each Sunday during Advent from 11:30-1:00pm, starting November 30th. **Sign up and pick up** your book this **Sunday, November 23rd** at the **table outside the office**. **Cost** per book is **\$16.00** and can be **placed in the cash box next to the books** or bring it to the first class.



HANGING OF THE GREENS

Hanging of the Greens is **Sunday, November 30th at 4:00pm** in the sanctuary. Come be a part of this special service to start off the Advent Season! The service will be followed by a meal in Heart Hub (formerly Coy Hall). Please **sign up this Sunday the 23rd** to participate in the meal.

ORDER YOUR CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS TODAY

The worship Committee is offering the opportunity to purchase Christmas Poinsettias for \$10.00 each to be used for our Advent services. **The sign up sheet is at the Ask Me Desk** in Lobby Court with spaces to dedicate the Poinsettia in memory or honor of loved ones. Place your check and order form in the basket labeled "Christmas Poinsettias". **The deadline for ordering Poinsettias is November 30th**. Thank you for helping beautify the sanctuary for Christmas! Please pick up your Poinsettias after the last service on Christmas Eve.

COOKIE BAKERS NEEDED!

Cookie Jar is one of FUMC's sweetest traditions—and our largest fundraiser for **Youth Missions**. Each year, our church comes together to bake **hundreds of beautiful, homemade Christmas cookies, candies, and fudge** to share with our community.

To make this year's event a success, **we need your help!** We are asking for volunteers to donate **a couple dozen of your best, prettiest, fully homemade treats**—no store-bought items, please. Homemade goodies are what make Cookie Jar special!



Drop-off Details: Friday, December 12th, 3:00pm – 6:00pm, Heart Hub (formerly Coy Hall) Kitchen. Or Contact Matthew Utley (youth@fumcloveland.com) for special drop off options! **Sign-up** to bake cookies following the link below or at the Ask Me Desk. Cookie Jar Bakers Sign-up [HERE](#). Your baking helps send our youth into mission to love and serve our community. Thank you for making Cookie Jar happen—one homemade treat at a time! And don't forget to **shop at the event Saturday, December 13th from 9:00–11:00am**—come early for the best selection!



SPECIAL MUSIC IN NOVEMBER

Nov. 30th – Chancel Choir, Alaina Bongers, harp

ALTERNATIVE WORSHIP SERVICE CANCELLED

Sadly, after over a year of trying with consistently low attendance, the decision has been made to cancel the First Sunday Alternative Worship Experience. This decision is not made lightly, as we are aware that a less traditional service is desired by some. We will continue to ponder and pray about how to meet the needs of our less-traditional friends and worshipers.



CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING

The Church office will be closed on November 27th and 28th for the Thanksgiving Holiday. Happy Thanksgiving!

CHAIR YOGA CLASSES AT FUMC

Curious about the Christ-centered chair yoga happening at FUMC? Class instructor Susan Van Meakins has put together a video to talk more about it, and even guides you through a short movement prayer. Watch the video by clicking [here](#).



HISTORY HAS BEEN MADE

Annual conferences across the globe have now voted on four constitutional amendments that were approved by the 2024 General Conference. Our Bishop Stoneking writes, "History has been made! Thanks be to God...for a new church which we are celebrating with the passage of all four amendments of the United Methodist constitution!...A commitment to inclusiveness has been strengthened [and] we have affirmed our commitment to combating racism, racial inequity, colonialism, white privilege, and white supremacy. For more information about the amendments and how they will shape the United Methodist Church going forward, click [HERE](#).



AN ALTERNATIVE GIFT OPTION FOR A GOOD CAUSE

Pura Vida is once again offering Alternative Gift Cards for sale. You can make a tax-deductible contribution to support Pura Vida's Christmas Milk Program and Unsponsored Student Fund, and receive a beautiful card to send to friends and family, telling them a donation has been made in their name. Pura Vida is a mission partner of FUMC. For many years, members of this congregation have volunteered time and given financial

contributions to provide housing and support to students and families in rural Guatemala. To order your cards, click [HERE](#).

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- **SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGERS** are needed to help raise funds for the Loveland Salvation Army this holiday season. FUMC partners with this program each year, ringing the bell to encourage donations at the Loveland Sam's Club on Saturdays. 2-hour shifts are available beginning November 22. Sign up at the "holiday" Volunteer Hub in Lobby Court!



- **MORE BUS DRIVERS ARE NEEDED for Sunday mornings.** Gary Small currently drives the bus to help some of our homebound members come to worship in person, and there is a need for additional drivers to help. You do not need to drive every Sunday. Contact Pastor Lee at lee@fumcloveland.com to help, or talk to Gary about what the job entails.

- **PURA VIDA**

FUMC is a mission partner with Pura Vida. Here are some upcoming ways to support this valuable organization!

- **Pura Vida Virtual Mission Trip...**Join the FUMC Mission Trip to Guatemala virtually. Our team will be traveling in February and you can be an important team member by signing up at the following link: https://www.puravida.org/virtual-trip.html?trip_id=119. Joining as a virtual member helps cover construction costs and will provide you with exclusive access to photos and videos during our week of construction. If virtual membership isn't in the cards, any donation would be appreciated. Make donations at that same link or donate through FUMC with the memo "2026 Pura Vida Work Trip". Thank you for your support.

- **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY & FUMC**

FUMC is a mission partner with Loveland Habitat for Humanity. Here are some upcoming ways to support this valuable organization!

- **Colorado Gives Day**

Early Giving is open! Your generosity will help us continue building homes, communities, and hope in Loveland for years to come. Colorado Gives Day is the biggest giving event in the state and is an amazing way to make a meaningful impact. As housing costs continue to rise, every dollar can make a difference in helping Lovelanders achieve the dream of safe, decent, and affordable homeownership in our community. From November 1st through December 9th, every donation you make is boosted by a \$1M+ Incentive Fund, thanks to Colorado Gives Foundation and FirstBank. Our 2025 goal of \$20,000 will help us continue building homes - from laying the foundations to the final coat of paint. Colorado Gives Day 2025 is on Tuesday, December 9th. Don't miss out on your chance to join the wave of generosity. Together, we build affordable communities.

- **Become a ReStore Regular!**

Do you or someone you know love sorting and organizing? Our ReStore is overflowing with donations, and we're looking for regular volunteers to help us sort clothes and housewares, test electronics, and put things out onto our sales floor. Learn more at lovelandhabitat.org/volunteer.

- **CALLING THOSE WHO CAN OPERATE A VOLUME BUTTON!**

Volunteers are needed to assist with running the soundboard during the Sunday morning service. Training is available and prior experience is not required. Volunteers would not be expected to work every Sunday. Please contact Ryan Millard at av@fumcloveland.com to ask questions or volunteer.



Family Programming Coordinator - Desiree Aragon -
familycoordinator@tumc-loveland.org

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Parents: Please note that there is a better way to sign in your kiddo(s) for Sunday school this year. You will find the scan code at the table with the balloons near the volunteer hub in Lobby Court along with the lead Sunday School teacher. Sunday School volunteers are vital for the success of children's ministries. You're invited to sign up for a date and time that works best for you. Sign up [HERE](#)



Mid & Senior High Youth Coordinator - Matthew Utley -
youth@fumcleveland.com

Sunday 11/23: Youth Group Friendsgiving Dinner 4:00pm - 6:00pm. Parents Welcome.

Sunday 11/30: No Youth Group: Thanksgiving Break

Sunday 12/07: Regular youth group 4:00pm - 6:00pm. Snacks provided.

Friday 12/12: Youth Christmas Party and Lock-in starts at 6:00pm.

Saturday 12/13: Cookie Jar Fundraiser 9:00am - 11:00am.

Sunday 12/14: No Youth Group

Sunday 12/21: Christmas Caroling! 2:00pm.

Sunday 12/28: Regular youth group 4:00pm - 6:00pm. Snacks provided.

Tuesday 12/30: New Year's Eve, Eve party (7:00 - 10:00pm).

Altar Flowers: If you'd like to provide altar flowers for a worship service, details on how to sign up can be found at www.fumcleveland.org. Scroll down on the Worship tab.

PERSONALS

Prayers:

Rich Stiverson, healing from hand injury/surgery

Bob Link, declining health, at Good Sam

Janeen Anderson, in rehab



We give thanks for the life of Royal Ryser, who entered eternal life on November 6th, and remember in prayer his family. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, December 6th at 2:00 at FUMC.

We give thanks for the life of Kathy McMillan, who entered eternal life on November 15th, and remember in prayer her husband Steve McMillan and their family. A memorial service will be held at FUMC on Friday, November 21st at 2:00pm. A reception at their home follows, at 1574 West County Rd 16, Loveland 80538.



Birthdays: Nov. 17th - Nov. 23th, 2025

Pat Boegli

David Williams

Alicia Mitchell

Cathy Trout