

First United
Methodist Church
of Fort Lupton
306 Park Ave., Fort
Lupton, CO 80621
303-857-2257
10.4.26

Staying in Touch

→
First United
Methodist Church
of Fort Lupton

Email - office@fumc-fortlupton.org

Website - www.fumc-fortlupton.org



Message

**“Back to School with Wesley:
Method-ism”**

Rev. Lee Anderson-Harris

Scripture: Colossians 3:12-17

Therefore, as God's choice, holy and loved, put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Be tolerant with each other and, if someone has a complaint against anyone, forgive each other. As the Lord forgave you, so also forgive each other. And over all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. The peace of Christ must control your hearts—a peace into which you were called in one body. And be thankful people. The word of Christ must live in you richly. Teach and warn each other with all wisdom by singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Sing to God with gratitude in your hearts. Whatever you do, whether in speech or action, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus and give thanks to God the Father through him.



WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR CHURCH

NO HASSLE GIVING

Have your donations automatically come out of your bank account.

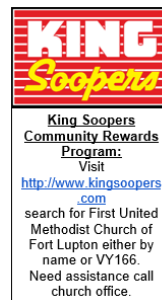
Contact Church Office or Church Treasurer for information



Safeway cards -available downstairs after worship



[DONATE TO THE CHURCH ONLINE.](#)



What's Happening

10.5.26	6:00 pm	UMW Meeting
10.7.26	12:00 pm	Worship Planning

Wednesdays

9:30 am	Wednesday Bible Study
7:00 pm	Choir

Fridays

5:30 – 6:30 pm	Youth Group
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**We now have a lock on the dumpster.
The code is 2011.**

Jan. 1 - Aug 31, 2026 Financial Update	
*Income	\$ 149,113.18
Expenses	\$ 127,865.37
Revenue/(Loss)	\$ 21,247.81

*Income includes \$9,000 interest from Endowment

* Income includes \$30,000 principal from CD

Click red button for Administrative Board Minutes





Cup of Hope

Facilitated by Stephen Ministry Group

— ♥ —
*A Safe Place to Talk.
A Caring Place to Listen.*

Life can be difficult sometimes.
We all need a place where we can talk,
be heard, and know that someone cares.

Cup of Hope is an opportunity
to come together in a warm,
welcoming and confidential setting
to listen, share, encourage and
support one another.

FIRST MEETING
Monday, October 19, 2026
10:00 - 11:00 AM
Fort Lupton First United Methodist Church
Main Floor Conference Room

All Are Welcome!
— ♥ —

You don't need to have all the answers.
You don't need to be a Stephen Minister.
You don't even have to talk.

Simply come and be part of creating:



A safe place
to talk



A caring place
to listen



A place to
find support



A place to
share hope

— ♥ —
*Come for a cup of coffee or tea, a listening ear
and the opportunity to help build a caring ministry
within our church and community.*

First Meeting Agenda

- 1 Welcome & Opening Prayer**
 - Why we are gathering
 - Creating a welcoming and confidential environment
- 2 What is "Cup of Hope"?**
 - A safe place to talk
 - A caring place to listen
 - A place where no one has to face life's challenges alone
- 3 Our Purpose**
 - Offering friendship, compassion and a listening ear
 - Supporting one another through difficult or uncertain times
 - Exploring how this ministry can serve our church and community
- 4 What Does a Good Listener Look Like?**
 - Listening without judgment
 - Showing compassion
 - Respecting confidentiality
 - Knowing when simply being present is enough
- 5 Open Conversation**
 - What would make Cup of Hope meaningful?
 - What needs do we see in our church and community?
 - Ideas for future gatherings
- 6 Next Steps**
 - Determine meeting schedule
 - Identify areas of interest and participation
 - Discuss possible future activities
- 7 Closing Thought & Prayer**

— ♥ —
*Everyone has a story.
Everyone deserves to be heard.*
— ♥ —



Fort Lupton
First United Methodist Church

United Methodist Church Mission Team Fort Lupton Made with All

Cake Decorating

WORKSHOP

Fun for All Ages!

- Hands-On Decorating Tips
- All Supplies Included
- Take Home Your Own Cake!

Wear Clothes You Don't Mind Getting Dirty!

\$25 Per Person • Limited to 21 Spots!

Sunday, October 18 • 3:00 PM
306 S Park Ave, Fort Lupton, CO

Sign Up Today!

Call Amy Wilbur
303-931-1319
a.wilbur77@yahoo.com



Upcoming class: Learning from Bonhoeffer

Pastor Lee and Pastor Jeremiah Harris of Longs Peak UMC are bringing to you a three-week Zoom conversation about Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the martyred German pastor and theologian, on October 8, 15, and 22 from 6:30-8:00 PM. Bonhoeffer's witness continues to challenge the church today. Together we will explore how his life, writings, and resistance to Nazi ideology speak with urgency to current questions about Christian nationalism, faithful discipleship, and the church's public witness. This class invites thoughtful reflection, honest conversation, and renewed courage for following Christ in our own time. This class will be led by Dennis Shaw. Rev. Shaw has spent his adult life in service to church, country, and community. Born in the West and raised in the South, he has sung, listened, led, and served across the United States and abroad, including formative seasons in Alaska, Korea, and Germany. He served more than twenty-three years in the U.S. Army and later two decades as a United Methodist pastor, with meaningful time in Colorado and Utah. A lifelong athlete and Boston Marathon finisher, Dennis now lives in West Virginia with his wife, Marilyn. Dennis has been a keen student of Dietrich Bonhoeffer for over 30 years, and he has recently self-published *Slow Work of Trust*, which is available only on Amazon in paperback, Kindle, and Audible.

To register, email Pastor Lee at pastor@fumc-fortlupton.org, or sign up in the back of the sanctuary, by October 7. While this class necessitates Zoom, you can indicate if you would like to gather with others in person to participate in the Zoom when you register.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL STARTS SUNDAY, 10.4.26

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
MEETS IN SMALL CONFERENCE
ROOM.**

*Facilitator - Marty
McDermott*

**YOUNG AT HEARTS
MEETS IN LARGE CONFERENCE
ROOM.**

*Facilitator - Michelle
Bettger*



UMW Silent Auction and Bake Sale

Nov 6 & 7, 2026

We are in need of silent auction items

We are having a silent auction this year and would like to ask for donations. Gift baskets, homemade items, loved items that you would be willing to donate. We will also need baked goods and food items. Please call Kathy 303-229-2197 if you have items. I will pick them up! Or bring them to the church by the 1st. I will need all items by November 1st.



Hallelujah Sunday



Sunday, October 25th



9:00 am



**Followed by a Fellowship Feast
with all the fixin's**



**Western attire if you choose,
so dust off yer boots.**



Gwen will be working on a new directory. If you want to be included, please complete the form and return it to the church office.

First United Methodist Church Contact Information

Name(s): _____

Household Members (optional): _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ ☐ Mobile ☐ Home

☐ OK to include in directory ☐ Staff use only

Email: _____ ☐ OK to include in directory ☐ Staff use only

Photo

☐ I will upload/attach a photo

☐ No photo in directory, please

Celebrations (Optional)

Birthdays: _____

Anniversary: _____

☐ OK to include in newsletter ☐ Staff use only

Interests & Involvement (Optional)

Ministry interests: _____

Skills or gifts I'd like to share: _____

Care & Prayer (Optional)

Prayer requests: ☐ Public prayer list ☐ Pastoral staff only

Privacy & Permission

☐ I give permission for the information I selected to appear in:

☐ Printed directory, (Newsletter – Staying in Touch/Web page)

☐ Please do NOT share my information publicly; staff use only

Signature: _____ Date: _____



Back to School with Wesley: Grace 101

Here at the beginning of a new school year, and the fall kick-off of regular church programming, a fresh start is on some people's minds. If you're like me, the idea of dusting off some long-forgotten knowledge or learning something new is appealing; just as appealing as a fresh pack of pencils or note paper is to some. So let's take this opportunity to go back to school with John Wesley, the founder of Methodism. I want to take us back to the roots of Methodism and John Wesley's teachings not as a way to return to the past, but to help us understand Methodism for the present and future.

Generally speaking, churches everywhere, not just United Methodist, are declining in attendance in general but especially declining in the involvement of young people. Of course there are exceptions to that, and our future has not been predetermined. In addition to that trend, even long-time, faithful church attenders are more restless these days due to the political divisiveness and narratives in this country, which has led people to question if they are in the right camp or the wrong one. Some people are wondering if they are in right alignment with God because there is so much confusion and intertwining of politics and faith in unhealthy ways. (There are also people who are dead certain they are in right alignment, which is the more dangerous of the two options). Many churches I know of have seen some of their members move into other churches, and new people coming into their church from other churches, because of questions or disagreements about theology and teachings and even worship practices that no longer seem to fit as comfortably as they once did. Some people have left their church because it's too conservative, while others have left their church because it's too liberal, and often that's the same church!

Despite all of this, there are still many people who are hungry for a spiritual connection with God; who long for a sense of belonging and community; who seek meaning and guidance in their lives. I believe that United Methodism and John Wesley's teachings can still meet those needs. So my hope is that by taking a closer look at what this denomination is about, we can be inspired to use our unique gifts for the sake of meeting the needs of a spiritually hungry world. The United Methodist Church does not have the corner on Christ. But we have a necessary place in the body of Christ, and must do our part to share Christ with the world.

So let's begin by looking at the core of John Wesley's teachings and the foundation of the Methodist movement of his time. Now, I want to acknowledge that the United Methodist Church has heritage that is not just Wesley's or Methodism, because the United in the name comes from the Evangelical United Brethren denomination when it merged with the Methodist Church in 1968. But in this series, I am talking solely about Wesley and Methodist thought. For Wesley, the foundation of the Christian life was all about grace and transformation.

The passage from Ephesians that I read was a core passage for Wesley's ideas. Wesley's beliefs and teachings were very much shaped by Paul's letters. What this passage from Ephesians says is that it is by God's grace that you are saved, not of your own doing. And, that God made us, created us in Christ, for good works. At the time that Methodism was developing, there was debate among theologians about how a person was saved, and what role good works had in that. Some said that God planned salvation out for each person in advance, so that no matter what you did or didn't do, your fate had already been decided. This is known as predestination, and you will find in some of Paul's writings some verses that shaped this theology; Romans especially speaks to this. But Wesley, and like-minded theologians, rejected this idea. Some taught that your deeds in life determined your fate in the afterlife. Wesley also rejected this thought, and taught that what you do flows out of your love for God and how God's grace through Christ's presence in your life has changed you. God's grace is your salvation. And salvation doesn't just mean what happens after death; it's what happens to you in this life. It is about becoming more Christ-like in this lifetime, as God's Spirit dwells within you and transforms you over time. All of this happens through God's grace, not by our own efforts.

Wesley taught about three main types of grace. Prevenient grace is the gift of God's presence throughout our lives before we are aware of it. When we celebrate an infant baptism, we are acknowledging and celebrating that God is with this child from the very beginning, before their awareness, and that the Holy Spirit is at work in them to bring them into full connection with God. The second type of grace is justifying grace and comes later in life, with all hope. This is the moment or series of moments when you recognize your

need for grace. It's a conviction that you have not lived as God intended and that you need God, but also that God's love and mercy are there for you, that Jesus gave and continues to give his life for you...not just other people, but for you. I say that justifying grace is experienced with all hope because not everyone reaches this point. And it is so beautiful, so life-changing when you really accept this love beyond comprehension for yourself; and when you believe that no matter what has happened up until that point in your life, God has forgiven you, God sees you and loves you, and will give you new life. From this point, sanctifying grace begins. Once you have let the love in, it will take hold of you and work within you to bring you closer to Christ, to change you from the inside out, in a lifelong process. Sanctification means that over time you will grow more Christ-like yourself. But there's a catch. You can't just switch on auto-pilot once you have been justified. You have to stay close to Christ. God's grace does the transformation, but you have to take an active part by living a life in Christ, through ongoing prayer, study, spiritual practices, and even, yes, community. You are not in control of what and how God works within you, but you must be intentional in your faith practices. It's not as though God only rewards those who are doing the deeds, it's more like making sure the channels or arteries for receiving Christ within are open, if you will....that there aren't things standing in the way of God to do God's work. And that you are making space in your life to be molded and shaped. Wesley called this "going on to perfection." He wasn't sure that any of us actually reached perfection in Christ, but that didn't matter so much as the moving toward it. If you are moving toward perfection, you are being transformed, you are becoming more Christ-like.

So what's the point? Why be transformed? Why all this grace?

Anyone who has hungered for something more in life can respond to these questions well. They might tell you that it's not about being good or avoiding eternal damnation or receiving eternal reward. It's about a God-shaped hole in their being. Or about running up against themselves time and time again and realizing they need God in order to be the person they want to be. It's about trying to find joy and contentment in places that keep disappointing you and finally finding true joy and peace just by being near to God. Or about wanting to make things right in the world and learning that trying to change other people by your own will just doesn't work. Or maybe, all of the above.

I look at these reasons for grace and transformation, and I think "how human." Is there anyone who doesn't long for this? So for those of us who have received this, or who are receiving it, it is up to us to then turn around and offer it to other people. Not just tell people with words how Christ can change their life, but to show them a glimpse of what that looks like. We live in a world that lacks grace. People are angry, vengeful, self-entitled, self-centered, certain they have all the right answers. People are also fearful, lonely, insecure, unsure about themselves or the world around them. Grace...whether in the form of forgiveness, or understanding, or compassion, or lack of judgment...is counter-cultural and so needed. Grace is not just something we receive from God for our own sake. We can extend grace in a graceless world and change things bit by bit this way. And I think that is what Jesus was trying to get across to those who would listen.

There is a book I read once in which a painting is described in moving detail; it's a fictional book so I am assuming it's a fictional painting. It's a painting of the Virgin Mary in old age. And she has a look of such despair and resentment and bitterness, disappointment and betrayal as she looks out at the viewer, at the world, a world that no longer believes in miracles, that has no time or care for what she did, what she brought into this world. And then the author describes a slight...something...in her eye, barely perceptible, and that something changes everything. It's a glimmer of hope in her eye. As I was reading the narrative leading up to that revelation, I thought the author was going to say that what was in her eyes was mercy. Despite all she had experienced and felt she still also held love and forgiveness. And perhaps, that's where our hope comes from. Perhaps hope and mercy are one and the same.

For Wesley, going to church to worship was a privilege. And worship was only part of the Christian life. Gathering with other Christians is not meant to be an escape from the world's problems, it's meant to shape and transform us so that we carry this radical grace and mercy and hope outward, with all of the difficulty that doing so brings. This is what Wesley wanted for the people called Methodist, it's why he believed in a method that wasn't easy to follow but would result in transformation...not just for the follower, but for a hurting world as well. This is challenging to hear. I feel challenged constantly. I want as much as anyone else to be comfortable, to escape from the world's problems. But God won't let me. God keeps calling me, and us, to meet the world where it is with this counter-cultural message of love and mercy.

And so, if we are to rise to this challenge, and to follow Wesley's teachings, we live a life in Christ so that we are transformed for the transformation of others. We can only offer Christ to others by who we are and who we have become, not by our words alone. We bear witness through our being and actions.

The late UM Bishop Rueben Job wrote "When we walk in companionship with Jesus Christ we begin to think and to act like Jesus. It is impossible to live in close communion with any person and not take on some of the qualities of that person. So it is with Jesus Christ. To live with Jesus is to begin to take on the qualities that marked his life. Unqualified love for and obedience to God, unconditional love of neighbor and a radical selflessness were an integral part of the life and ministry of Jesus. To follow Jesus is to incorporate these qualities into our lives as well. And to do so is to begin to bear the mark of a Methodist that John Wesley sought to see implanted in everyone who followed the Methodist way." Rueben Job was a leading authority on Wesley's teachings and a guide to many Methodists. This quote came from a book he authored called *A Wesleyan Spiritual Reader*, and it's a devotional that was required for one of my classes at Iliff and something I still turn to. If you're feeling inspired to dive deeper into the Methodist way as someone newer to this denomination, or to reconnect with your roots as a lifelong Methodist, I highly recommend this book. It works as a daily or weekly devotional.

To bear the mark of a Methodist was not about proving membership in an elite religious club, or to put one's salvation on display. It was about drawing others in. Again, we bear witness through our being and actions, and a life lived in Christ changes us from the inside out so that we can do that. I don't know many who can meet the challenge we have been given to carry that radical grace outward without help, without something deep going on within where God's power meets them in their humanity. Wesley talked about the Spirit bearing witness in our spirit, and that becoming more Christ-like was evidenced by fruits of the spirit that Paul listed in Galatians when he wrote "the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." This is a beautiful transformation that leads to abundance in our own lives, and we are blessed to be able to bring others into that abundance for their sake. Wesley's way was and is a challenging one, but it guides us in living out our Christ-called mission, today and tomorrow.

So let in that amazing grace and let it out.

Carol's Corner

By Carol McDermott

I believe Fall is actually here – just in time for the 'first day of Autumn'. How convenient that it felt like Fall – really – on the appropriate day! Jennifer Norby had the Children's Sermon and talked about a gift being free to the recipient – all they have to do is to accept it and thank the giver. This was a perfect introduction to Pastor Lee's message based on Ephesians 2:8-10 – a passage you have probably heard or read many times. It says that we are brought into a relationship with Christ through faith, and not because our good deeds outweighed our bad at the end of our life. It is a free gift from God through Jesus. What an enormous weight this takes off of us to know that God isn't in heaven making marks on a big board that keeps score. We accept His free gift and tell God "Thank You!"

All of the music was centered around God's extravagant grace, including the offertory "Amazing Grace." Pastor Lee began a new series called "Back to School with Wesley: Grace 101." She talked about trends in society where many people feel no need to attend church or develop a relationship with God. They don't view a God of grace and forgiveness, but one who basically tolerates humans and isn't interested in their everyday struggles and concerns. I encourage you to listen to the on-line service or ask for a printed copy of the sermon. It is a rich blessing.

John Wesley, the founder of 'Methodism' wanted those going to church to realize it was – and is – a privilege. "It is meant to shape and transform us so that we carry this radical grace and mercy and hope outward. We can only offer Christ to others by who we are and who we have become, not by our words alone. We bear witness through our being and actions. A life lived in Christ changes us from the inside out so we can do that." Wesley talked about the Spirit bearing witness with our spirit, and that becoming more Christ-like was evidenced by the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." God loved us enough to die for us so we could be His children forever. God's grace is truly amazing and free!

Pics to Enjoy!

Celebration of 38 wonderful years! Many Blessings Day Care





Sunday Worship

Bring in the light of Christ



Jennifer sharing Children's Time

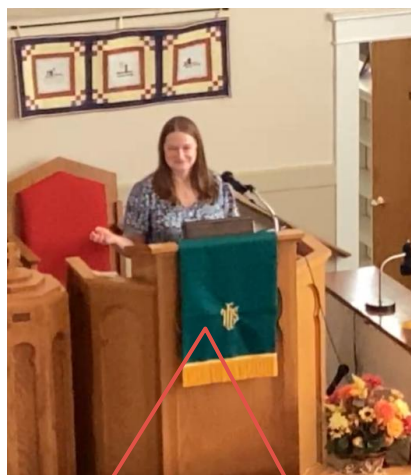


Praise Team



Special music by Carol & Marty

Mission Moment by Sue



Mike leading Worship

Pastor Lee, "Gathering with other Christians is not meant to be an escape from the world's problems, it's meant to shape and transform us so that we carry this radical grace and mercy and hope outward, with all of the difficulty that doing so brings."