

## Crossroads Outpost

Lamoille, Nevada



Lamoille Community Presbyterian Church

### Our Vision

We stand together at the crossroads where God's powerful love compels us to worship Him fully, follow Jesus daily, and live in the Spirit joyfully.

### Our Mission

Our mission is to pursue this vision with commitment, character, and in community.



WELCOME  
TO WORSHIP



2023

## Your Light has come



In the introduction to his book *For All God's Worth*, theologian N.T. Wright says, “Christmas is God lighting a candle, and you don’t light a candle in a room that’s already full of sunlight. You light a candle in a room that’s so murky that the candle, when lit, reveals just how bad things really are. The light shines in the darkness, says St. John, and the darkness has not overcome it.”

For that reason, Wright explains, Christmas isn’t a dream or a momentary escape but reality. And the same is true for Christianity. “Either Jesus is the Lord of the world and all reality makes sense in his life, or he is dangerously irrelevant to the problems and possibilities of today’s world,” he adds. “There is no middle ground. Either Jesus was, and is, the Word of God, or he, and the stories Christians tell about him, are lies.”

## Moments of incarnation



The wonder of the infinite-personal God is displayed, more than anywhere else, in the Incarnation. Nothing can prepare us for the birth of God: a six-pound, four-ounce Jewish boy with dark brown curly hair born in the fall or winter of 5 B.C. in a shepherd’s cave on the side of a hill in the city of Bethlehem in the Roman province of Judea in western Asia.

It is so particular it staggers the imagination. God found a parking spot, a specific place and time where his love would touch our world. [Similarly,] prayer is a moment of incarnation — God with us. God involved in the details of my life.

—Paul E. Miller, *A Praying Life*

# CHURCH HAPPENINGS

A few members of Lamoille Presbyterian were on hand to celebrate the commissioning of Jennifer Koopman as Commissioned Lay Pastor of First Presbyterian of Elko as approved by Nevada Presbytery Conference in September.

Jennifer has been a member of Elko First Presbytery for 23 years. At the conference Jennifer shared in 2011 she felt a deep undeniable calling from the Holy Spirit. Jennifer later started her Masters of Divinity and when the elders asked her if she would consider being a Lay Pastor, she said her "heart literally leapt."

Jennifer has completed 13 of the 9 courses required by Nevada Presbytery for her commissioning and shared at the conference, "this is the script the Lord had written for her life and was falling into place."

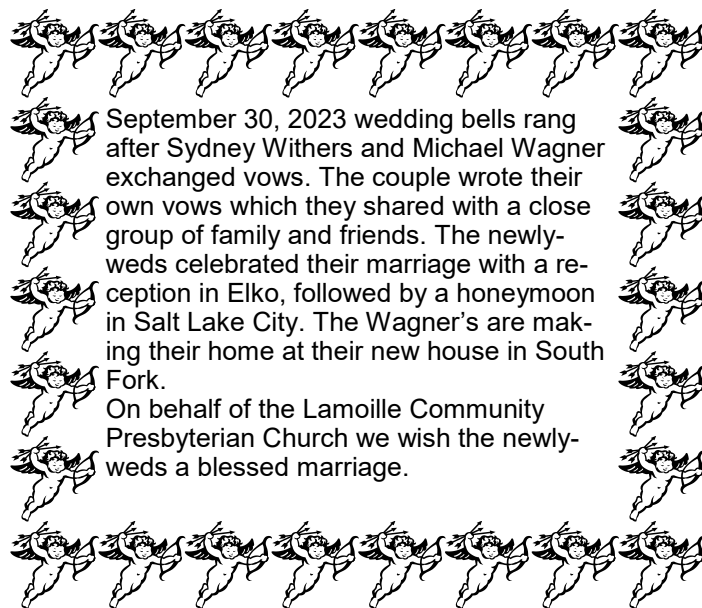
We are excited for Elko 1st Presbytery and the joyful energy Jennifer brings to her new position.

Pictured: Sandy Wilmot, Clerk of Session, Brandylyn Thran, Lay Pastor, Wells Presbytery, Jennifer Koopman, CLP/CLE, Pastor Dr. Harper, J. Christy Ramsey, Stated Clerk, NV Presbytery



Jennifer wearing her new quilted stole hand made by Rev. Kate Freeman, NV Presbytery (who quilted and gifted 2 stoles and a blanket at the September conference!)

*thank you*



September 30, 2023 wedding bells rang after Sydney Withers and Michael Wagner exchanged vows. The couple wrote their own vows which they shared with a close group of family and friends. The newlyweds celebrated their marriage with a reception in Elko, followed by a honeymoon in Salt Lake City. The Wagner's are making their home at their new house in South Fork.

On behalf of the Lamoille Community Presbyterian Church we wish the newlyweds a blessed marriage.







Anna at Spring Creek Baptist received our 49 boxes of happiness!

Thank you everyone who participated in Operation Christmas Child spreading joy, hope and the message of Jesus!

## A year that whispers Jesus

For author Nancy Tichy, a small holiday gift once sparked big-picture thoughts about Christian living. One December she received a kitchen towel with the message "I want a Christmas that whispers JESUS." That prompted thoughts of what it's like to have an entire year that whispers Jesus.

For starters, that involves daily quiet time, devotion and prayer. "Sometimes I wake with the thought of a person on my mind," writes Tichy. "I'm quiet with this impression, interceding for the family member or friend until it has lifted. Could this be a whisper from our Savior?"

Many other daily occurrences are "worthy of [Jesus'] whispered response of love," Tichy points out. That's true whether we're distracted by tasks and troubling thoughts or buoyed by encounters with contentment and joy. "For me," she writes, "whispering is part of intimacy, and that is what I want to make a hallmark of the coming year. I want closeness with our Savior that enables me to hear from him, even when he whispers."



## 24 days of Christmas

Dec. 1 John 1:4-5	Dec.13 Luke 2:1-5
Dec.2 Isaiah 9:2-7	Dec. 14 Luke 2:6-7
Dec. 3 Isaiah 11:1-10	Dec. 15 Luke 2:8-12
Dec. 4 Jeremiah 33:14-16	Dec. 16 Luke 2:13-14
Dec. 5 Luke 1:5-10	Dec. 17 Luke 2:15-18
Dec. 6 Luke 1:11-17	Dec. 18 Luke 2:2:19-20
Dec. 7 Luke 1:18-25	Dec. 19 Micah 5:2-5
Dec. 8 Luke 1:26-38	Dec. 20 Mathew 2:1-2
Dec. 9 Mathew 1:18-21	Dec.21 Mathew 2:3-6
Dec. 10 Mathew 1:22-25	Dec. 22 Mathew 2:7-8
Dec. 11 Luke 1:39-45	Dec. 23 Mathew 2:9-12
Dec. 12 Luke 1:46-56	Dec. 24 John 1:1-4

CHRISTIAN LIFE MINISTRY

## Advent meanings

During Advent, which begins this year on December 3, many churches and families use wreaths to symbolize watchfulness and increasing joy as Christmas approaches. Colors for the candles vary, with some traditions using blue (for hope or creation) and others preferring purple (for royalty, humility or penitence).

The four candles that each represent a week in Advent also signify hope, peace, joy and love. (The third candle is often pink.) In the center is the white Christ candle, representing Jesus as the light of the world. That candle is lit on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

The round, green Advent wreath has special meaning of its own. It symbolizes eternal life and the unending love of God, who sent his only Son to earth to die in our place.



On a cold winter morning, Holy Spirit,  
enfold me in the warmth of your love.

## Resolve to go micro



Most New Year's resolutions are so major they seem made to be broken. Maybe that's why "micro-resolution" is the latest January buzzword. Setting smaller goals is more realistic and helps ensure follow-through, according to experts. People who try setting micro-resolutions say that approach is more positive and leads to longer-lasting change. For example, instead of attempting to lose 30 pounds this year, make a micro-resolution to walk 10 minutes twice per day and to snack on fresh fruit at least once a day.

Micro-resolutions can also be helpful in matters of faith. If aiming to read the entire Bible in one year feels overwhelming, take five minutes each morning and evening to read a brief devotional or pray. If joining your church's missions committee isn't possible, try to talk to one new person each week about your faith or church. May God bless you as you take small steps that add up to big impact this year!

## Don't miss out!

In his poem "The Inn That Missed Its Chance," Amos R. Wells writes from the perspective of the "fairly crazed" innkeeper who recalls Bethlehem becoming "a hive at swarming-time." Of the couple who requested shelter on what became Christmas Eve, the proprietor asks, "Could I know that they were so important?"

There was a sign, they say, a heavenly light resplendent; but I had no time for stars.  
And there were songs of angels in the air  
out on the hills; but how was I to hear  
amid the thousand clamors of an inn?

If the innkeeper had only known Jesus' true identity, he says, he would have turned the place upside down, sending other guests out to the stables instead. When Jesus returns — "as he will surely come" — the anonymous innkeeper wants everyone to know: "Tell my Lord that all my inn is his, to make amends."

## Ponderings at the end of a day — or year

Dutch Catholic priest and theologian Henri Nouwen found it useful to reflect on several questions at the end of the day: "Did I offer peace today? Did I bring a smile to someone's face? Did I say words of healing?" Pondering such questions may prove valuable at the end of a year as well: "How did I contribute to peace in the world this past year? Did I bring smiles to others' faces? Did I offer words of healing?" Nouwen continued, and we can too: "Did I let go of my anger and resentment? Did I forgive? Did I love?"

Many of us set New Year's resolutions for self-improvement, asking, "What are my goals? How can I better myself, my weight, my work-life balance, my habits?" But Nouwen said of his self-inquiry: "These are the real questions. I must trust that the little bit of love that I sow now will bear many fruits, here in this world and [in] the life to come." His resolution was to share God's love with others. With God's help, it can be ours as well, for each new day and each new year.

## Bible Quiz



Elizabeth, an older relative of Mary the mother of Jesus, was miraculously pregnant at the same time as Mary. What was the name of Elizabeth's husband?

- A. Aaron
- B. Zechariah
- C. Joseph
- D. Simeon

Answer: B (See Luke 1:5, 39-41.)





## Christian symbol



**ROSE** — This flower, often shown as stylized artwork, is a symbol for Advent, the promise of the Messiah and Jesus' nativity. A white rose represents the Virgin Mary, and a red rose stands for martyrs. A wreath of roses symbolizes heavenly joy.

# December 2023

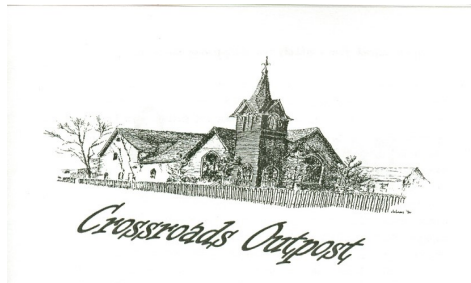
Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

					1	2
3 Rick Glass First Sunday of Advent	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Joel Jund 2nd Sunday of Advent	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 Kevin D. 3rd Sunday of Advent	18 Griffin Muckel (B)	19	20	21 	22	23
24 Rick G. Christmas Eve Service Allen~B	25 	26 Joseph L (B) Gary Dennis (B)	27	28	29	30
31 Allen S.	25th~ Zeek J (B)					

Lamoille Community Presbyterian Church

"Pursuing a faith that makes a difference"

317 SR 227 PO Box 281147  
Lamoille, NV 89828-1147



**Church Office: 775-753-6749**

**E-mail: [lamoillepres@gmail.com](mailto:lamoillepres@gmail.com)**

**[www.littlechurchofthecrossroads.org](http://www.littlechurchofthecrossroads.org)**

### **SESSION ELDERS:**

**Gary Jensen: 775- 934-8001**

**Jim Connelley: 775-778-9800**

**Matt Thiel: 775-340-8231**

**Kim Garcia : 340-2484**

**John Kendek :775-297-1889**

**Kevin Hull: 934-3246**

**Gregg Lawrence: 777-8184**

**Bruce Carson: 443-789-4256**

**Dorothy Hull: 775-934-5340**

### **DEACONS:**

**Debbi Thiel: 775-340-7811.**

**Susan Lawrence: 775-397-1477**

**Jeanice Jensen: 775-777-5678**

**Becky Jaff: 307-620-0671**

**Barbara Palmer: 303-424-1820**

**Suzann Carson: 443-789-8595**

## **Kids Say the Funniest Things**

A Sunday School teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible -- Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the verse. Little Bobby was excited about the task, but he just couldn't remember the Psalm. After much practice, he could barely get past the first line. On the day that the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Bobby was so nervous. When it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly, "The Lord is my shepherd . . . and that's all I need to know!"

When a mother saw a thunderstorm forming in mid-afternoon, she worried about her seven-year-old daughter who would be walking the three blocks from school to home. Deciding to meet her, the mother saw her daughter walking nonchalantly along, stopping to smile whenever lightning flashed. Seeing her mother, the little girl ran to her, explaining happily, "All the way home, God's been taking my picture!"

A mother took her three-year-old daughter to church for the first time. The church lights were lowered, and then the choir came down the aisle, carrying lighted candles. All was quiet until the little one started to sing in a loud voice, "Happy Birthday to you, happy birthday to you...."

