

# 2021



## Celebration Time

10:00 AM Sundays

### Livestream Devotionals

7:00 PM Wednesdays

9:00 AM Fridays

*“We are God’s  
People Sharing the  
Love of Christ!”*

#### **Website:**

[www.fumcgreeley.org](http://www.fumcgreeley.org)

#### **Email:**

[office@fumcgreeley.org](mailto:office@fumcgreeley.org)

New Year Greetings!

I am praying for you and the community we are called to serve, and the nation, during this time filled with concern and even fear.

We have struggled through the entire year of 2020 that held challenges we have never seen before. Individuals, families, churches, businesses, and governments worldwide have been impacted due to the COVID-19 Global Pandemic.

At the beginning of this new year there is a potential of further violence, building on the violence we saw at the US Capitol on January 6<sup>th</sup> and at some state capitals including the California state capitol in Sacramento.

As a Church, we have done our best to be faith-filled while responding to things and events that came up. I often say light-heartedly, “they never taught this in Seminary.” In other words, there was no “Pandemic 101” class!

As we begin with 2021, isn’t it good to know that we serve a God who never changes? Paul says, “*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.*” (Hebrews 13:8)

While this past year may have left a few scars along the way in all our lives, I pray that we do not dwell on those things. May we have the strength to look back and learn, but look forward and be inspired!

The Apostle Paul saw this as vital to continual growth in God. He says, “*Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*” (Philippians 3:13-14)

As we look forward to 2021, experience tells us that we have no idea all the New Year will hold. Yet, we can also rest assured that the same God who brought us through this past year will continue to be there for us “if” we reach out to Him.

There’s a beautiful old song that has a line like this: “Many things about tomorrow I don’t seem to understand, but I know who holds tomorrow and I know who holds my hand.”

Now, it is 2021! May it be a year that we ALL grow closer to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

In Christ,  
Pastor Sione Tukutau

## **STAFF**

### **Rev. Sione Tukutau**

Senior Pastor

### **Kathy Trevino**

Director of Operations

### **Nikki Barrios**

Director

Family Ministries

### **Jacob Aychman**

Director

Chancel Choir

### **Carlos Salazar**

Director

Praise Team

### **Connie Long**

Director

Alleluia Bell Choir

Organist

### **Adam Swenson**

### **Evan Messmer**

Sound and Media

### **Mike Villanueva**

Custodian

### **Travis Andersen**

Security

### **Ginger Jansson**

Newsletter Editor

tgjansson@gmail.com

## **FUMC FINANCIALS**

### **COMMITTEE EXPENSES 2020**

Conference Apportionment	\$	500.00
Communication	\$	2,670.14
Personnel	\$	244,458.75
Education	\$	847.97
Caring and Evangelism	\$	.00
Membership Activity	\$	(20.00)
Worship	\$	608.93
Board of Trustees	\$	77,980.28
Administration	\$	11,927.90
Finance	\$	1,034.34
Youth/College	\$	(6.24)
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>340,002.07</b>
<b>GIFTS RECEIVED 2020</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>340,002.07</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>0</b>

## **GIVING DURING COVID-19**

As we move forward with virtual committee meetings and live streaming services and devotionals, we continue finding new ways to be The Church. Your contributions are still needed to keep the building in good shape for our return when it is safe to do so, as well as to continue being Christ's hands and feet in these strange times. If you are able, your contributions can be mailed to the church (917 10<sup>th</sup> Ave, Greeley 80631) or made online from our website: [fumcgreeley.org](http://fumcgreeley.org)

Another way to give is to use your King Sooper Loyalty card. Make sure you link your card with First United Methodist Church, Greeley as your charity of choice. Then each time you shop, King Sooper will donate to FUMC. Contact the office if you need help setting this up. Thank you, FUMC Finance Committee

## **Contribution Statements**

The church will not be sending out 2020 contribution statements via bulk mailing. If you would like your statement mailed to you, please email the church office at: [office@fumcgreeley.org](mailto:office@fumcgreeley.org) or call us at 353-5522. Thank You.



Help us celebrate the  
birthdays of our church members  
who are 80 years old or older.

Ulafay Fry	2/02	92 yrs.
MaryEtta Moore	2/02	84 yrs.
Ed Bowker	2/04	87 yrs.
Leon Grube	2/04	81 yrs.
Beth Hyde	2/05	84 yrs.
D Joe Moore	2/07	84 yrs.
John Elliott	2/09	82 yrs.
Luella Kinnison	2/14	86 yrs.
Evelyn Ward	2/17	100 yrs.
Lee Hewitt	2/17	81 yrs.
Virgil Harper	2/19	86 yrs.
Lola Buel	2/21	92 yrs.
Naomi Kauffman	2/24	97 yrs.



Grace Napier	12/31
Bob Bernd	1/1
Lois Satterlee	1/3

### Worship Services Open Up!

The Administrative Council has decided to open up in-person worship services again to 50 participants, beginning February 7<sup>th</sup>. The time of worship remains at 10:00AM. If you would like to attend worship in-person, please call the church office at 353-5522 so we can assure you have a spot. The previous protocol will still be in place. Please wear a mask. Your temperature will be taken when you arrive. There will be no fellowship time until further notice. The Council continues to monitor COVID numbers and the advice of Bishop Oliveto and will make adjustments as needed. Thank you.

### ON-LINE DEVOTIONALS



Pastor Sione continues holding 2 online devotionals weekly: Wednesday nights at 7:00PM and Friday mornings at 9:00AM. You can join these live stream devotionals by going to the church's Facebook page: [facebook.com/fumcgreeleyco](https://facebook.com/fumcgreeleyco) OR go to our website [www.fumcgreeley.org](http://www.fumcgreeley.org) and click on the Facebook icon at the top right corner of the home page. No Facebook account is needed.

The deadline for the **March Messenger** is **Monday, February 15th**. Articles can be emailed to Ginger Jansson at [tgjansson@gmail.com](mailto:tgjansson@gmail.com). If you know of someone who would like the newsletter emailed to them, please have them send me or the office their email address.



## United Methodist Women Notes



This message for United Methodist Women is a reminder that even though we have not met for many months and are not sure of a meeting time soon, that the work of United Methodist Women goes on. I would encourage you to make a pledge for 2021, even though we did not have a special service. I would also ask that you begin to think about Prayer and Self-Denial as it is the focus early in the year.

The new program book for 2020-2021 is titled “Knitted Together for God’s Good Work” and includes the knitting theme throughout. For those who do not knit or crochet, it means we are all connected like a knit sweater to carry out the work that United Methodist Women have done for over 150 years.

Since we will not be able to meet in person just yet, please keep this theme in mind as we continue the new calendar year and not so patiently wait to be able to gather.

The nominating committee has not yet let us know who will serve as your new President. The remaining officers will stay the same for 2021 and will lead you well as they have already done.

As we continue our prayers and regular donations to United Methodist Women, we can continue to support our organization from anywhere at any time. Now is the time to send a pledge to our treasurer Marcia Walters.

### ***Shawls, Shawls, Shawls***



We have shawls. During the last few months, as our knitters and crocheters have been somewhat housebound, they have been working on shawls. They are using up some of those “stash” to add to our shawl collection. Now is the time to begin giving them homes. If you know someone who could use one or if you would like to adopt one, please contact Kathy at the office number to make arrangements for pickup. If you choose to pay for a shawl the value is up to you and is a donation to United Methodist Women and used for mission. Many thanks to our shawl makers.

*Raylene Shively* 970-347-9560

*Kathy Trevino* FUMC 353-5522

### **Thanks to our congregation!!**

The year 2020 was different for all of us! Ordinarily in December we have a church staff party. This year with Covid 19 we were not able to do that. I know our chair of Finance, Don Kautz, asked the congregation to contribute to say "thanks" to all the staff for the work they have been doing. You must have come thru as you always do in a very generous way. The gift card I received was very much appreciated, as I know in asking my fellow staff folks on the Sunday morning after getting it, they too, seemed very pleased at being acknowledged. So, please accept this note of THANKS for the Christmas gift card of thanks we each received.

In God's love, *Connie* 🧡

## Blessing Box



Just a little reminder that the Red Blessing Box is still in operation. During the past few months, the church staff and volunteers have been filling the box with donations that were left before COVID shut the building. We have even seen people stop and drop things off in the box. The shelves are now fairly empty. If you would like to donate items, they can be brought to the church on Monday mornings. We can meet you at your car for pickup. Please make sure any canned items have a pull top so can openers are not needed. If you would rather send a donation, please write "blessing box" in the memo line and we will purchase needed items.



Greeley-Weld  
**Habitat  
for Humanity®**

The Greeley-Weld Habitat for Humanity recently published their annual report. Here are some of the interesting facts that were included in the document:

- 94% of homeowners felt their lives had improved since moving into their Habitat home.
- 90% saw an improvement in their family's health since becoming a Habitat homeowner.
- 65% of Habitat Homeowners felt they were somewhat or much better at saving money since moving into their home.
- 85% of the donations to Habitat are used for Homeownership Opportunities
- \$3.3 million were invested in new construction in 2020 for Habitat homes.



Thank you for your continued support of Habitat for Humanity.  
Watch for information about a Beer and Tacos Event coming soon.



## Sewing for Service is Back in Business

Although Sewing for Service did not meet during much of the pandemic, we have decided to start meeting again safely on Wednesday afternoons. 😞 Sadly, we still do not have refreshments. Some of our members feel more comfortable doing work at home, so sometimes the pinning and knot tying takes place in their living rooms or on their dining room tables. During 2020 115 quilts were donated to various agencies in the community, and 14 quilts were purchased at the sale in October. We have received several donations of fabric, so our quilts are more colorful than ever! If you are interested in learning more about this project, please join us on Wednesday afternoons in Fellowship Hall.

## Weld Mobile Food Pantry

The mobile food pantry is regularly scheduled in our parking lot on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month.

\*\*\*Due to safety concerns, this site has been temporarily cancelled until further notice.\*\*\*

We will let you know when it returns to our parking lot.

## Happy New Year!

As I sit to write a few thoughts at this time I think about how will we be planning for each Sunday. Jacob and I have been working together to pick hymns by gathering ourselves via zoom at least once a month to pick hymns which fit the scripture of the service. This past week I was advised by an individual that we hadn't picked any familiar hymns for this past Sunday. Since I knew that was true.....I thought maybe I should share a part of our process.

First, we read the scripture which has been selected provided to us by Sione. We generally can key into the theme of the biblical story. Second, we look in the hymn index, google information, and attempt to cross reference text, meaning, and focus predictions. Third, we always read thru the text of the hymn, usually sing thru the melodic line, and discuss if we think it would "fit". Many times a specific hymn will immediately come to mind. Unfortunately, that doesn't always happen. Jacob always asks if the congregation knows a hymn and I will admit sometimes we have selected things because we think the text is very good. (The week before last that was especially true--and we ignored that question of if the congregation knew the hymn.--I guess I was bad for that week. But we all need to expand our learning base.)

We are always willing to accept your suggestions for hymns and I know I miss the fifth Sunday singing selections we have usually done. Since the advent season has passed us now, the hymn selections will be a bit harder. Christmas time is always a joy to select the traditional carols, hymns which totally follow the Biblical calendar of Christ's arrival. During the Month of December we attempted to select a combination of traditional music, as well excellent text components. Your hymnal is a great resource to utilize for your personal devotions, Bible study, group discussions, and reflections.

I am hopeful you have been reading the "tidbits" about the music selections in the bulletin/email which is sent out. It has been intended to give you a bit of history on the selection and why it was chosen.

It has been my distinct pleasure to work with Jacob, Gabriel, Kevin, Carlos, and our dedicated tech team, and all who assist in worship. We continue to be God's work in progress and I thank you for being with us on Sunday's for worship.

Blessings, *Connie*



Thank you, Connie Long, for the music you bring to us on our special days, birthdays and anniversaries. What a joy to be greeted on the telephone by your beautiful singing voice and message of good cheer! Also, your bell ringing adds so much to the Sunday service. Thank you, Marian

## **2021 Leadership**

During the Church Conference in November, the following members were elected to the FUMC Leadership Team (Administrative Council)

Chair: Bruce Williams		
Secretary: Kathy Trevino	Church Treasurer: Pat Succo	
Lay Leader: RuthMary Lyons	Audit: RuthMary Lyons	
Lay Member to Annual Conference: Bev Williams		

### Committee Chairs:

SPRC: Bev Williams	Education: Joyce Langham
Trustees: Kevin Hilmes	CEMAC: Linda Kautz
Finance: Don Kautz	Worship: Linda Kautz
UMW Pres: Raylene Shively	Local/Global: Donni Clark



### **From Trustees**

In January The Board of Trustees had their first meeting for 2021. Some of the projects they will continue working on as the year begins are:

- Roof repair on the flat surface above the West Narthex.
- Work with the church's security company to upgrade the security system.
- Complete the outside entrance and security lights around the building,
- Replace the lighting inside the message board on the South/East corner of the building with upgraded LED lighting.
- Repair and upgrade the counter in the women's restroom on Fellowship Hall level.
- Clean or replace cover on rose window on West side of building.
- Polishing or oiling pews in the sanctuary and furniture in the Parlor.

Members of the board will be doing a walk-through of the building to address safety concerns and maintenance issues.



church know when you wrote it.

## Check Writing Steps

(Excerpts from Huntington Bank)

This is a refresher course on writing checks to the church. We have received checks with missing dates; missing Payees; missing numerical amounts; unreadable written amounts; missing signatures, etc.

From experience, we sometimes know the intention, but the bank does not. When writing a check for a donation and a purchase, it helps us if you write separate checks because donations and purchases are processed differently. Thank you.

**Step 1: Date the check.** Write the date on the line provided. This step is important, so the bank and the

**Step 2: "Pay to the order of".** Write the name of the church. You can either write 'First United Methodist Church' or just put 'FUMC'.

**Step 3: Write the payment amount in numbers.** There are two spots on a check where you write the amount you are paying. First, write the dollar amount numerically (for example \$130.45) in the small box on the right. Any corrections or changes are questionable – especially to the bank.

**Step 4: Write the payment amount in words.** On the line below "Pay to the order of," write out the dollar amount in words to match the numerical dollar amount you wrote in the box. For example, if you are paying \$130.45, you write "one hundred thirty and 45/100." If the dollar amount is a round number, still include "and 00/100" for additional clarity. Writing the dollar amount in words is important. Again, any corrections or changes are questionable – especially to the bank.

**Step 5: Write a memo.** Filling out the line that says "Memo" is optional, but very important this time of the year. **If you want your donation to go towards a designated cause, please write it on the memo line.** If it is left blank, it usually goes to your account as 'General Fund' or 'Pledge'.

**Step 6: Sign the check.** Sign your name on the line at the bottom right-hand corner.

- Your Money Counting Team

*This article was first published in our February, 2020, newsletter. We felt it may be helpful to repeat it because of the different requests and needs for donations this time of year.*

*Reference #5. To ensure that your donation goes where you want it to, please either 1) write it on the Memo Line of your check or 2) include a note with giving information. If not specified, your donation will be credited to the general / pledge fund.*



## **Protect Yourself from Social Security Scams (From the Social Security Administration Website)**

### **Be on the lookout for fake calls, texts, and emails**

Scammers are pretending to be government employees. They may threaten you and may demand immediate payment to avoid arrest or other legal action. Do not be fooled!

### **Be Alert**

Social Security may call you in some situations but will **never**:

- Threaten you.
- Suspend your Social Security number.
- Demand an immediate payment from you.
- Require payment by cash, gift card, pre-paid debit card, or wire transfer.
- Ask for gift card numbers over the phone or to wire or mail cash.

Social Security may email or text you about programs and services, but will never ask for a return call to an unknown number. Social Security only sends emails or text messages if you have opted in to receive them and only in limited situations, including the following:

- When you have subscribed with Social Security to receive updates and notifications by text or email.
- As part of Social Security's enhanced security when accessing your personal my Social Security account.

### **What to look for**

- The caller or sender says there is a **problem** with your Social Security number or account.
- Any call, text, or email asking you to pay a fine or debt with retail gift cards, wire transfers, pre-paid debit cards, internet currency, or by mailing cash.
- Scammers **pretend** they are from Social Security or another government agency. Caller ID, texts, or documents sent by email may look official but **they are not**.
- Callers threaten you with arrest or other legal action.

### **Be Active**

Protect yourself, friends, and family!

- If you receive a questionable call, hang up and report it at [oig.ssa.gov](https://oig.ssa.gov).
- Do not return unknown calls, emails, or texts.
- Ask someone you trust for advice before making any large purchase or financial decision.
- Do not be embarrassed to report if you shared personal information or suffered a financial loss.
- Learn more at [oig.ssa.gov/scam](https://oig.ssa.gov/scam).
- Share this information with others.



Valentine's  
Day