

2021



Celebration Time

10:00 AM Sundays

*"We are God's
People Sharing the
Love of Christ!"*

Website:

www.fumcgreeley.org

Email:

office@fumcgreeley.org

Greetings, Dear Ones, in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. These days, I find myself full of gratitude. I'm grateful for the beautiful summer we have had with much-needed moisture and for the flowering trees and bushes that have put on an impressive show this year. I'm grateful for the slow re-gathering of the church family, making each Sunday feel like we're opening a gift as we welcome "new" faces we haven't seen in over a year. I'm grateful we can begin to safely visit our folks who are at home or in care facilities. I'm grateful for the deepening of relationship we've had with many of those in our congregations, for the laughter and the tears and the silliness and the excitement around trying new things. I'm grateful for God's faithfulness in the life of the church, evident in the support of and participation in ongoing ministries. I'm grateful for God's faithfulness in the lives of those who make up the body, evident in the fact that, despite the difficulties of the past year, we're still standing and finding reasons to celebrate!

Earlier this year, we began a conversation about how we could commemorate each of the special worship experiences we had missed during the months of COVID-19 precautions. Was it possible to pack Palm Sunday, Easter, All Saints Day, Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas Eve into one service? As a vision for what that might look like – one big celebration of all the high holy days, we were reminded of an episode from the sitcom Seinfeld from the late 90s. One of the characters on the show, Frank Costanza, had been bothered by the commercial and traditional trappings of Christmas. And so, when his son, George, was a young boy, Frank created his own holiday: Festivus. "Festivus for the rest of us," was his catch phrase. Rather than a Christmas tree, the family gathered around a metal pole Frank had found in the basement. Rather than singing carols, each person aired their grievances and instead of giving gifts, they had a wrestling match to prove who was the strongest. While I'm not sure I can get on board with the airing of grievances and I certainly am not interested in wrestling with any of you, the name of the holiday is catchy.

On Sunday, September 12, we will have our own version of Festivus at worship. We will begin the service with the waving of palm branches and shouts of "Hosanna!" We'll work our way through the church year and end by lighting our candles as we sing Silent Night. It will be a time of acknowledging what we've missed, but will also be a celebration of what it means to be a part of Christian community. It will be a reminder that online worship is great, but it lacks the element of relationship and connection that is a vital part of who we are as the family of God. Let's have some fun with it! Wear an Easter bonnet or a Christmas sweater! As part of the service, we will remember the saints who have passed into life eternal from November 1, 2019, until today. Please contact Pastor Al (970-580-0279) with names you would like to include.

Please plan to be with us that day as we rejoice in what God has done, in what God is doing, and in what God will do. Let's make it a Festivus to remember! Many blessings, friends, as we Rally into the future. Be well and be grateful.

Pastor *Al Strauss*

STAFF**Rev. Al Strauss**

Senior Pastor

Kathy Trevino

Director of Operations

Nikki Barrios

Director

Family Ministries

Jacob Aychman

Director

Chancel Choir

Travis Kornegay

Director

Praise Team

Connie Long

Director

Alleluia Bell Choir

Travis Kornegay

Organist

Adam Swenson**Evan Messmer**

Sound and Media

Mike Villanueva

Custodian

John Hull

Security

Ginger Jansson

Newsletter Editor

tgjansson@gmail.com

FUMC FINANCIALS**COMMITTEE EXPENSES as of July 2021**

Conference Apportionment	\$	3,000.00
Communication	\$	983.96
Personnel	\$	145,171.19
Education	\$	182.24
Caring and Evangelism	\$.00
Membership Activity	\$.00
Worship	\$	516.63
Board of Trustees	\$	54,124.09
Administration	\$	6,094.16
Finance	\$	585.41
Youth/College	\$	22.97
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$	210,680.65
GIFTS RECEIVED as of July 2021	\$	215,234.61
	\$	4,553.96

Capital Campaign Loan Balance: \$ 166,576.96

Endowment Investment Fund: \$ 37,134.35

Hull Mission Investment Fund: \$ 139,138.05

Ways to Give - As you are able

*If you are comfortable attending in-person worship, your contributions may be placed in the offering plates.

*You can mail your check to the church (917 10th Ave, Greeley 80631)

*Online contributions can be made from our website: 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.

*If you shop Amazon, they have an *Amazon Smile* program. You can list First United Methodist Church, Greeley as a charity of your choice.

Thank you, FUMC Finance Committee



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

Hana Sameshima	9/11	95 yrs.
Rosie Jelden	9/11	88 yrs.
Peggy Pormen	9/16	84 yrs.
Jeannie Merriman	9/19	89 yrs.
Joanne Truitt	9/20	90 yrs.
Pearl Ann Adams	9/23	87 yrs.
Gene Hammer	9/25	81 yrs.
Sue Kropf	9/28	84 yrs.
Pat Pringle	9/30	80 yrs.

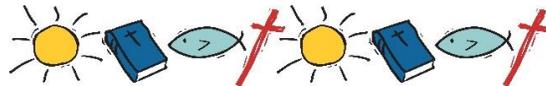
SEPTEMBER



Dale & Flo Mikkelson	9/01	59 yrs.
Don & Raylene Shively	9/05	57 yrs.
Jerry & Lynette Wasse Miller	9/06	52 yrs.
Doug & Lila Austin	9/07	52 yrs.
Ed & Wanda Stromberger	9/25	72 yrs.

Grace Napier Celebration of Life

The memorial service for Dr. Grace Napier is Friday, September 10, 2021, 1:30 P.M. at First Congregational Church, 2101 16th St, Greeley, CO. We welcome all those who would like to attend.



Worship Service

Currently we have one Sunday service beginning at **10:00AM**. As you feel comfortable, we hope you will begin joining our service in person. The Administrative Board and Board of Trustees will be keeping watch on Covid and Covid variant numbers. At this time, wearing masks is optional for those fully vaccinated. There is no assigned seating, but proper distancing is encouraged.

Knowing you are here is important to us. There are three Attendance Notebooks available for you to register your attendance on Sunday mornings. You only need to sign in one time! Knowing who is in the building helps us in case of an emergency. This also gives you an opportunity to update our records if there are changes to your phone number or address.

The deadline for the **October Messenger** is **Monday, September 20th**. Articles can be emailed to Ginger Jansson at 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.



Children Sunday School

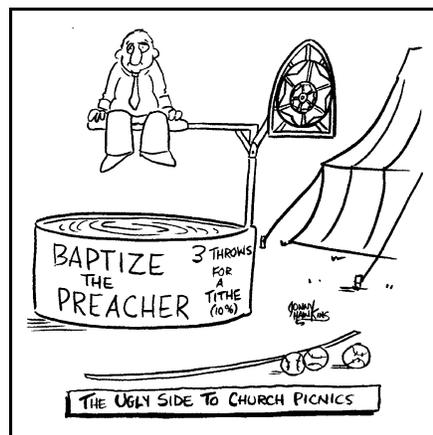


On September 12th, we will be celebrating Rally Sunday. This is an annual celebration that kicks off the school-year schedule. This year's Rally Sunday theme is "Moving Ahead". During the worship service we will be celebrating all the high holidays that we have missed out on during this time of COVID. As we close the service, we will be invited to move into the future with hope and joy. The Christian education department will celebrate our future with an Easter egg hunt after the worship service.

The following Sunday, September 19th, we will be starting up our children's Sunday school program. Each week we will meet for 45 minutes following the children's sermon. This year we are excited to present Hands-On Worship, or H.O.W. for short. We will be learning about God's amazing love for us using bible stories, games, children's books, and basic carpentry skills. That's right, the children will be learning to hammer, sand, stain, and wood burn, as they build their first building for what will eventually be their own western town. Our first project will be a bible holder that looks like an old western church. Come join us for all the fun!

TREASURED TRADITION RETURNS TO FUMC

It's been almost two years since Fellowship Hall has hosted a potluck dinner, but that dry spell is coming to an end! On Rally Sunday, September 12, CEMAC is planning a potluck to help celebrate a new church year. We'll gather in Fellowship Hall after the church service and enjoy a shared meal with our church family. Bring a main dish, a salad, or a dessert to share and we'll return to one of the most enjoyed Methodist traditions! Thanks! *Linda*



Treasures of the Past



Do you have any items in your household that have been passed down from generation to generation? They are often a pleasure AND a treasure.....things that we look at with our hearts as well as our eyes.

One of my favorite Bible passages is Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. There is a time for everything! We read in verse 6: “a time to keep and a time to throw away.” This is my way of believing that it’s definitely okay to hold on to our treasures.

We hope that you will be able to join the United Methodist Women on Thursday, September 9 at 1:30 P.M. in Fellowship Hall. The program is about Treasures of the Past and promises to be entertaining and meaningful. First, several of us will be showing treasures and telling stories about each item. We invite you to bring ONE item for “show and tell” if you choose to do so.....completely optional.

If you have questions, please contact me: Dee Kratochvil (d.kratochvil@comcast.net or (356-3644).

Sewing for Service



Starting in September, Sewing for Service will be meeting every Wednesday afternoon, starting between 1 and 1:30 – whenever you get there! Newcomers welcome! If you are cleaning out your linen closet and find extra sheets, we can use them as backing for our colorful quilts. Also, watch for our Annual Quilt Sale in October. If you need a warm, cozy quilt as a gift for someone, or for yourself, stop by Wednesday afternoon in Fellowship Hall. We always have a variety of finished quilts. This year we have already donated 63 quilts to community agencies.

Local and Global

Local and Global Commission has continued with some projects during Covid. We have worked at the Weld Food Bank assembling backpacks of food for students in need. We meet once a month and often do 1500 to 2000 packs. Volunteers are now allowed at Habitat for Humanity. Our group served lunch last month for a work group from the Fort Morgan Methodist Church and will soon have a workday. We have other local and global minors we support.

It was wonderful to see so many friends at church on Sunday and welcome Pastor Al. If you would like to join Local and Global, please give me a call at 970 330-5940 or send me an email, jdclark1@live.com.

Greeters Needed

What’s the best job in church? Being a greeter! You are the first loving touch a guest or member will meet when they enter the building. How awesome is that? If you would like to volunteer your smiling face and warm hospitality as a greeter on Sunday mornings, please let the office know. We are beginning a greeter list and will be calling to find out what days’ work for you. Thank you.



Music Ministry Newsletter



I bet many of you are surprised about how fast 2021 is flying by. We are already at Rally Sunday, where we begin our wonderful fall church ministries. It is my pleasure to tell you about the plans for the fall. Here are just a few announcements and dates.

Saturday, August 28th at 5 p.m. We will have our Music Ministry potluck at the home of Bruce and Beverly Williams. Address: 5103 West 12th Street, Greeley, Colorado.

They will provide hamburgers. Please bring a side dish and yourself. Spouses and significant others are welcome.

Music rehearsals will begin **Thursday, September 2nd**. **Bells: 6 p.m.; Choir: 7 p.m.**

If you are interested in joining choir or bells or planning on attending the Music Ministry potluck, please contact me at tkornegay@gmail.com or 970-405-1340.

Now for some exciting News: We are excited to announce that pianist, Gabriel Bitá has agreed to come and play for us twice a month.

To God's Glory,

Travis Kornegay, Music Director at First United Methodist Church

Biography of Gabriel

Since winning solo and concerto competitions in Europe and America, Gabriel Bitá has concertized as a soloist and chamber musician, collaborated with world-renowned artists, and performed with major symphony orchestras.

Gabriel Bitá has won national and international piano competitions since he was nine years old, with top prizes at Suceava (Romania), Città di Catanzaro and Città di Senigallia (Italy), the Ohio Music Teachers Association, Nena Wideman piano concerto competition (Shreveport, Louisiana), the Van Cliburn Institute concerto competition (Fort Worth, Texas), and the Columbus Symphony concerto competition (Ohio).

Symphony orchestra engagements as a soloist include performances with the Juilliard Orchestra, Fort Worth Chamber Orchestra (Texas), Filarmonica de Jalisco (Mexico), Fort Collins Symphony (Colorado), Oberlin, Columbus Symphony, Ashland and Canton Orchestras (Ohio), Botosani Symphony (Romania).

Solo concert performances include recitals throughout the United States, Germany, Bahamas, France, Italy, Romania, and Japan (performing concerts in Tokyo and Asahikawa, with critical acclaim). The Hokkaido Shimbun Press wrote that Gabriel "established magnificent sonority in his playing with soul and passion."

Gabriel has recorded two collaborative CD albums, with flutist Pamela Youngblood. They have been released in 2010 and 2012, under the Azica Records, a distributed label of Naxos of America.

Gabriel has collaborated extensively in concert with world class flautists, such as: Thomas Robertello, Carol Wincenc, Gary Shocker, John Bailey, Jonathan Keeble, Ian Clarke, Jim Walker, Zart Dombourian-Eby, Walfrid Kujala, Jill Felber, Pamela Youngblood. He has performed as a soloist with renowned conductors Otto Werner Muller, John Giordano, Enrique Barrios, Ron Spigelman, and Christian Badea. Gabriel has also collaborated with soprano Beverly Hoch, mezzo-soprano Joan Wall, soprano Nicki Cohen, and cellist Eugene Osadchy.

Gabriel's list of pianist musicians he studied with include: Vladimir Viardo, Martin Canin, Peter Takács, Jerome Lowenthal, and André Laplante. Gabriel has also participated in master classes and summer music festivals, studying under internationally renowned artists, such as Sergei Babayan, Leon Fleisher, Josè Feghali, Menahem Pressler, Ralph Votapek, and Claude Frank.

Gabriel Bitá has served as a full-time collaborative pianist at Texas Woman's University, for 17 years, where he has performed with faculty and guest artists, student degree recitals, and solo piano recitals. He holds a Master of Music degree in piano performance from The Juilliard School, and a Bachelor of Music degree from Oberlin Conservatory of Music.



Habitat Build Day

A small, but industrious, group from FUMC painted the outside of the Zero Net Energy home at the Mission Springs development on Saturday, August 7th. Here are some photos of the Habitat homes in Mission Springs. If you want to check them out, go south on 23rd Avenue to Quay Street. Turn right. An apartment complex is on the left; the Habitat homes are on the right. Notice the variety of attractive Habitat houses.



Alan Ruge wields a paint brush



ADA duplex; 2020 Faith Build



Beautiful paint job on Zero Net Energy Home!



Zero Net Energy Home under construction



Two-story Duplex – a new style of Habitat home

The Annual Greeley-Weld Habitat for Humanity Breakfast was a huge success! Donations totaled more than \$265,000, plus the match from Dick Monfort.

Update from the Board of Trustees

The estimated installation of the new glass doors for the West Narthex and Education entrances is still the end of September. In addition to the new doors, we will be installing a key card/fob entry system. Details on this system will be included in the October newsletter.

We will be replacing the existing hearing assistance system with one that can be blue toothed into our sound system. This will increase the quality of the hearing devices. The cost of this system will be approximately \$2,500. If you would like to donate to this expense, please write "sound" on the memo line of your check.

A Fall clean-up day has been set for Saturday, October 23rd (weather permitting). More details will be coming soon.



Need A Ride?

HIS Ride

If you would like to start attending service on Sunday morning and need a ride, please call Linda Kautz at 970-590-3118 or the church office at 970-353-5522. We will let you know what time the bus will be coming to pick you up.

If you are interested in driving the bus on Sundays, please call Kathy at the office. It's our hope to have at least 4 drivers and possibly 1 or 2 back up drivers. This will allow for you to commit to only one Sunday a month for driving.



Liturgists Wanted!

The worship committee is looking for Liturgists for the Sunday morning worship services.

This includes reading the Call To Worship and Scriptures. Kathy will send you a copy of these during the week before your Sunday. If you would like to help, please sign up on the clipboard in the East Narthex. Thank you.

Help Someone. One Day. One Place. One Person at a Time.

SAVE THE DATE!



Facilitated by United Way of Weld County

**Friday, October 15
Noon - 4:30 p.m.**

Navigator needed: 11 - 5 p.m.
Island Grove Regional Parks Events
Center - Greeley

Volunteer Navigators are needed to guide guests through the services being provided at Weld Project Connect. Navigators are paired one-on-one with a guest. After a brief checklist review with the guest the Navigator guides the guest through the event to receive desired services. Navigators will receive required training prior to the one day event.

For more information
www.unitedway-weld.org/projectconnect

Weld Project Connect delivers free health and human services to Weld County residents in need.



New Address

Gerry Bertelsen would like to share her new address. She has moved to:
4430 24th St Rd #217, Greeley CO 80634. Her phone number has stayed the same.



Banking Scams

Taken from an article on the usa.gov website
The most common banking scams include:

- Overpayment scams -A scam artist sends you a counterfeit check. They tell you to deposit it in your bank account and wire part of the money back to them. Since the check was fake, you'll have to pay your bank the amount of the check, plus you'll lose any money you wired.
- Unsolicited check fraud - A scammer sends you a check for no reason. If you cash it, you may be authorizing the purchase of items or signing up for a loan you didn't ask for.
- Automatic withdrawals - A scam company sets up automatic debits from your bank account to qualify for a free trial or to collect a prize.
- Phishing - You receive an email message that asks you to verify your bank account or debit card number.

Remember these tips to avoid a banking scam:

Do

- Be suspicious if you are told to wire a portion of funds from a check you received back to a company.
- Be wary of lotteries or free trials that ask for your bank account number.
- Verify the authenticity of a cashier's check with the bank that it is drawn on before depositing it.
- When verifying a check or the issuer, use contact information on a bank's website.

Don't

- Don't trust the appearance of checks or money orders. Scammers can make them look legitimate and official.
- Don't deposit checks or money orders from strangers or companies you don't have a relationship with.
- Don't wire money to people or companies you don't know.
- Don't give your bank account number to someone who calls you, even for verification purposes.
- Don't click on links in an email to verify your bank account.
- Don't accept a check that includes an overpayment.



**Sunday, September 12
at 10:00 am.
Children's Sunday School
Potluck after the service**