

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

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This week I discovered an enjoyable TV show called *Ted Lasso*. It is about a coach that went from coaching a division two college football program, in Wichita Kansas, to coaching a premier soccer team in England. The coach knows nothing about soccer, but his coaching style, his positive attitude, and his clever strategy unites an awful team and makes them a contender. What I really love about the show is coach Lasso's optimism and funny lines. In one episode, several team members and coaching staff were talking about the facilities being haunted. The coach was asked if he believed in ghosts. Coach Lasso responded, "I suppose I do. But, more importantly, I hope they believe in themselves."

I thought that was a great answer. I also think that is how I would answer if someone wanted to know if I believe in the church. I do believe in the church, but more importantly I hope you all believe in yourselves. Many people might give plenty of reasons our confidence should be shaken. It is true that church attendance across the board has been dropping for decades. The average age of church attenders continues to get higher. It also seems that the church does not have the voice of authority it once had. Finally, the number of people responding to the call to ministry is ticking downward. However, there is so much more to us than that.

God calls us God's own children. God sees us as the body of Christ. We also get to carry out the greatest message into a broken and hurting world. Our success is not measured by the number of people in the pews, a growing church budget, or by the size and beauty of our church buildings. Our success is measured in lives touched by acts of love and grace. We are still successfully carrying out our call with every act of grace. God is not finished with us yet! God has not exited the world! This is what you can believe in: God is still present, God is still making a way, God is still healing. God is transforming this world by blessing and using every act of kindness, every word of love shared, and every thought of mercy given.

It is this act of God sanctifying our actions, words, and thoughts that gives us power. It is because of God living in and through us that this world is being renewed and transformed day by day. It is because of God's grace that we cannot fail. We are called to love this world in whatever hurting form it presents itself to us. We can only love because God first loved us. It is easy to get discouraged. It is easy to think we can't do anything. Have faith. Believe you are a difference maker, believe the church has a message worth hearing, believe the body of Christ is actively healing the world. For God is the source behind it all.

Pastor *Al Strauss*

STAFF

Rev. Al Strauss

Senior Pastor

Kathy Trevino

Director of Operations

Nikki Barrios

Director

Family Ministries

Travis Kornegay

Director

Chancel Choir

Connie Long

Director

Alleluia Bell Choir

Travis Kornegay

Organist

Gabriel Bitá

Accompanist

Evan Messmer

William Zaggle

Sound and Media

Mike Villanueva

Custodian

John Hull

Security

Ginger Jansson

Newsletter Editor

tgjansson@gmail.com

FUMC FINANCIALS

COMMITTEE EXPENSES as of **Sept 2021**

Conference Apportionment	\$	4,000.00
Communication	\$	1,187.92
Personnel	\$	186,192.65
Education	\$	385.56
Caring and Evangelism	\$	187.66
Membership Activity	\$.00
Worship	\$	516.63
Board of Trustees	\$	63,224.95
Administration	\$	7,589.49
Finance	\$	872.94
Youth/College	\$	5.97
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$	237,249.64
GIFTS RECEIVED as of Sept 2021	\$	248,910.09
	\$	11,660.45

Capital Campaign Loan Balance: \$ 163,505.74

Endowment Investment Fund: \$ 37,725.55

Hull Mission Investment Fund: \$ 141,859.68

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

Church Conference

Church conference is the annual meeting where the church gathers and approves the business of the church for the year. This year it will be held on zoom, November 15th at 7:00 pm. Our District Superintendent Rev. Tezenlo Thong will be officiating this conference. We hope that it will be a time of celebrating our successes of the past year, while visioning what 2022 may look like. We will also affirm next year's budget, slate of officers, and our support of the conference. We hope that you will join us in the annual meeting as we focus on who we, as the church, strive to become.



Sewing for Service



This is being written before the Quilt Sale on October 24th, so there are no sales numbers to report. Thank you for allowing us to showcase our creations. Any quilts that were not purchased will be donated to local area agencies. They will keep residents warm and remind them that there are people in our community who care about them.

If you didn't get a quilt, but are still interested in checking them out, or perhaps buying one, stop in Fellowship Hall on Wednesday afternoon between 1 and 3 pm. Also, we have started sharing refreshments after sewing again. If that is an enticement, please join our group!



Gobble Gobble...what's that I hear!

We look forward to celebrating with thanks, all the blessings of the past year. We will be having our Churchwide Thanksgiving Dinner on **November 21st** after the worship service. This year we are asking you to RSVP that you are coming so we can get an approximate head count. A sign-up sheet is on the table in the East Narthex.

How can you help? We need donations, pies, turkeys, people willing to cook turkeys if needed, and kitchen help. Let us know how you plan to help when you RSVP. For more information contact Rod Poeschl (our head turkey) at rdaddypoe@yahoo.com

Please mark your calendars now and join us. We have much to be thankful for!



Stewardship Campaign

In Ecclesiastes 3:1, we read, “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.” As we make the turn into November, we find ourselves in a new season. Football season. Leaf raking season. Pumpkin Spice season. Thanksgiving season. And in the church, stewardship season. This is the season we begin to plan for the upcoming year, filling out committee and leadership assignments, casting a vision for new or updated ministries, and developing a budget to accomplish what we set out to do.

You will be receiving our mailing regarding our stewardship campaign for 2021: Step In, Step Up, Step Out. In the coming weeks, we will be reflecting on the ways we can **step into** something new, whether it be a new commitment to financial giving or whether it be a new spiritual practice. We’ll ask you to consider **stepping up** your current commitment to the church. And finally, we will be challenged to **step out** and to take the message of God’s faithfulness into the world, finding ways to be the church outside of Sunday morning, offering grace and mercy to the world around us in the name of the One who creates, redeems, and sustains us.

While it does take money to offer everything we do – meaningful worship; Sunday school for all ages; the incredible generosity to local missions; being a host to Boy Scouts, Alcoholics Anonymous, or any number of community organizations – stewardship season is more than just about finances. In the first chapter of Genesis, God gives humankind the important task of being good stewards of the earth and all that dwells within it. This time of year brings the opportunity to ask ourselves if we are being good stewards of our resources, of our time, of our gifts and talents, or of the connections we have made in our community. We might reflect on how we are doing as stewards of our relationships with family, friends, or neighbors. It is a good time to think about whether we are being good stewards of our own physical, mental, or spiritual health.

My prayer for the church this month is that we would use this season to take stock of what is important and to step in, step up, and step out in faith. I hope you’ll enter into this season with joy and enthusiasm for the many opportunities that lie ahead for the church. May we, as a church, reflect the values of God’s kingdom as described and lived by Jesus. Whatever season you are celebrating this month, know that you are a beloved child of God, blessed to be a blessing.

Pastor Al

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 sign-up on the clipboard in the East Narthex.



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.



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.

Update from the Board of Trustees

Finally! The West Narthex and Education Wing doors are installed! At the time of writing this article, the new entry system is being put in place which will allow greater security. As soon as this system is up and running, we will let you know how it works. Please continue to be patient as we work out the kinks. Thank you goes to William Zaggle and Kevin Hilmes for installing the entry system.

The Trustees also had a successful clean-up day on Sat. October 23rd. Thanks to all who participated. A new safety rail has been installed along the sidewalk between the parking lot and West entrance and our sprinklers are winterized. The committee is ready to finish up smaller projects, close out a busy 2021 and is looking forward to new projects in 2022.



FUMC Greeley Website Update

We have recently rebuilt our website on a different platform to have a more secure environment for our members. This is a work in progress so please bear with us. If you would like to add and/or change any content, photos, etc., please email the information to Kathy at office@fumcgreeley.org and put WEBSITE in the subject line. We appreciate your patience!

Sally (Website Assistant)

Mark Your Calendar – Alleluia Ringers Christmas Music Presentation



Once again, the FUMC Alleluia Ringers will play for the Festival of Trees event on Saturday, December 4th, in the Union Colony Civic Center, Hensel Phelps Theatre, 1:30-2:00pm. This event will have Christmas Trees displayed outside of Monfort Theatre Auditorium. We hope all of our FUMC congregation will come listen, support the bell ringers, and view the trees. This event is sponsored by the City of Greeley, the Philharmonic Guild, and business partners. Our bell ringers begin working on music for this event in mid-October. They generally present some of their music during worship time in December, but you will only get to hear all of their 20-to-30-minute concert at the actual Festival of Trees Presentation. There is a small fee but well worth the admission.

Travis Kornegay during the Greeley Chorale Concert, October 15, at FUMC, Greeley



On **Sunday November 7th**, we will be honoring those who have gone before us this past year. If you would like to have a loved one honored, who is not a church member, please let the office know and we will add their name to the list to be read during the worship service.



Confirmation is an important milestone in the life of a disciple of Jesus. It is an opportunity to affirm the vows made at baptism and, for some, to make their own declaration of faith as they are baptized and confirmed at the same time. It has been our practice to offer confirmation class to youth grades 6 and up. Throughout our ministry, we have developed our own curriculum using trusted United Methodist resources. This curriculum involves five two-hour sessions and one weekend retreat in Denver to participate in worship with other faith traditions, Christian denominations, and a couple different expressions of United Methodist worship. One of those is Denver After Hours, whose congregation serves lunches to the homeless in Civic Center Park 365 days a year. Past youth who have participated report that the worship retreat has had the biggest impact on our confirmands. We encourage families to work schedules around this important weekend.

An important part of confirmation is developing a relationship with a mentor who will accompany your child through the year. It is best if you and your child choose someone with whom your child will feel comfortable and who will be committed to this relationship. It might be a grandparent, a neighbor, or someone from within the church. We ask that each mentor/child pair meet monthly between November and March. We will have guided worksheets for the two to work through together and will send them home with the kids following our first session. It's important to let mentors know that they are not expected to do any teaching, just reflecting on their faith with your child. If you are having trouble thinking of someone to ask, please let us know. There are several members of the church who would love to be your child's mentor and we can pair them up as needed.

This year, we are pleased to partner with Ft. Morgan and Brush UMCs for confirmation! A tentative schedule for the year is as follows (all Sunday sessions are from 2:00-4:00 p.m.):

November 7th: Trinity and the Creeds (Greeley UMC)

December 5th: Church History (Ft. Morgan UMC)

January 9th: Bible (Greeley UMC)

February 11-13: Worship Retreat and Wesleyan Theology

March 6th: Church Polity (Ft. Morgan UMC)

March 16st: Meet with the Church's Administrative Council (7:00 p.m.)

April 17th: Easter Sunday! Confirmation Day!

Thank you for trusting us with this important step in your child's faith journey! It is a big task, to be sure, but we trust it will be meaningful and fun for the kids, too. Please let us know through email, text, or phone call if your child will be participating so that we know who to plan for. Looking forward to hearing from you all!

Many Blessings –
 Pastor Al Strauss
 (970) 580-0279
 email: padstrauss@gmail.com

We're all messy.
We're all struggling.
 We are all flying high
 In some ways and falling
 Flat on our faces in others
 Nobody has it all figured out.
 It's our job to cheer each
 Other on, lift each other up,
 And push each other to
 Keep giving it our best.
 It matters who we surround
 Ourselves with...
 We need to be better
 To each other.
 We're all we have.

Amy Weatherly



The more you thank life,
 the more life gives you
 to be thankful for!
 Good Morning!

2 Roses



Fall Back

**Daylight Savings time
ends on Sunday,
November 7th.
Don't forget to
turn your clocks
back 1 hour.**