

2022



Celebration Time

10:00 AM Sundays

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

Website:

www.fumcgreeley.org

Email:

office@fumcgreeley.org

Siblings in Christ,

We are entering into February, the month that finds romance in the air. Couples are brought together, chocolates are eaten, hearts decorate the schools, and we celebrate love. Yes, of course, I am referring to Presidents’ Day! The origin of this holiday goes back to the 1880s as we Americans celebrated our first president’s birthday on February 22nd. Later, many states celebrated Abraham Lincoln’s birthday on February 12th. In 1968, congress passed a uniform Monday holiday bill. The idea was to give workers some three-day holiday weekends. In the passing of this bill, Washington’s birthday is celebrated on the third Monday of February. There was much dissension with this. Many felt like it should be celebrated on his birthday. In 1971, when this bill was enacted as law, there was a proposal to change the name to Presidents’ Day. After heated debate, the proposed name change was rejected. So, the official name of the holiday on the third Monday of February is Washington’s Birthday. So why do we call it Presidents’ Day? The reason we call it Presidents’ Day is because retailers use that name to promote sales. I have always said that department store sales will be the downfall of our educational system. Okay, I have never said that.

I tell you about all of this because I can’t imagine the strong feelings that people had on either side of these controversial issues surrounding Washington’s Birthday. I don’t know why people cared what date we celebrate the holiday or what we call it. I imagine there were some states that did not want to honor or include Lincoln’s birthday on this holiday. There could have been some racial undertones in this debate. I have no idea. However, I do know that people had a very clear opinion about this debate. I am also certain that some people did not get their way. I am willing to go out on a limb and venture that nobody got everything they wanted. Yet members of congress came together, had a conversation, debated, voted, and everyone accepted the outcome. Except for those dang retail stores! The point is people were able to disagree without dehumanizing. People could oppose an idea without opposing someone’s personhood. People could believe a point of view without belittling another point of view.

Our families, our churches, our workplaces, our communities, our state, our country, and our world, will have conflict. We will have debates over topics that people will have strong, opposing points of view. When people disagree, we are all still people. Christ would have us treat others the way we want to be treated, forgive not seven but seventy times seven times, turn the other cheek, welcome the stranger. We have a history and a tradition of doing these things. If we live by those rules, we appropriately honor the holiday of love, Presidents’ Day.

Grace and Peace to you all, your pal, Al

STAFF

Rev. Al Strauss

Senior Pastor

Kathy Trevino

Director of Operations

Mardy Gerwig

Bookkeeper

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

SUMMARY 2021 FUMC FINANCIALS

COMMITTEE EXPENSES		
Conference Apportionment	\$	5,500.00
Communication	\$	1,577.92
Personnel	\$	248,596.90
Education	\$	883.97
Caring and Evangelism	\$	187.66
Membership Activity	\$.00
Worship	\$	2,029.17
Board of Trustees	\$	85,272.11
Administration	\$	10,142.86
Finance	\$	1,075.91
Youth/College	\$	470.23
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$	355,736.73
GIFTS RECEIVED	\$	355,824.21

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's 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 Soopers 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.

Carol Walso	2/01	82 yrs.
Ulafay Fry	2/02	93 yrs.
Maryetta Moore	2/02	85 yrs.
Ed Bowker	2/04	88 yrs.
Leon Grube	2/04	82 yrs.
Beth Hyde	2/05	85 yrs.
D Joe Moore	2/07	85 yrs.
John Elliot	2/09	83 yrs.
Luella Kinnison	2/14	87 yrs.
Evelyn Ward	2/17	101 yrs.
Lee Hewitt	2/17	82 yrs.
Virgil Harper	2/19	87 yrs.
Lola Buel	2/21	93 yrs.
Naomi Kauffman	2/24	98 yrs.



Chuck & Donna Hettinger 2/12 50 yrs.

Ed Linn 11/27/2021

Worship Service Attendance

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.



Blessing Box

Needed items for the red Blessing Box: Grab and Go food and snacks and travel size hygiene items. Also, now that the weather is turning cooler, we will be adding socks, hats, mittens, and other cold weather items. If you would like to donate to the Blessing Box, please leave your items in the room across from the office. We will make sure the box outside gets filled on a regular basis.



The deadline for the **March Messenger** is **Monday, February 21st**. 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.

Habitat Happenings



The 2021 Faith Build home was dedicated on Saturday, December 11th. Patricia, Stephanie, Natalie and Sophia were very excited to get the key to their forever home. It is a two-story duplex in the Mission Springs development. The other half of the duplex will belong to Muhtar and Lensa Hassan and their four children. Colorful

quilts from Sewing for Service were given to the children. In the photo the Hassan children are holding their new quilts. The Hassan home was funded by the Habitat breakfast held in July. Dick Monfort, one of the breakfast sponsors, spoke briefly at the dedication. He said that helping support a Habitat home is one of the best things he does every year.



Other Big Habitat News

The Habitat ReStore is moving to a new location – the ‘old’ J.C. Penney store in the Greeley Mall. This larger space will also house the Habitat offices. Watch for ‘volunteer opportunities’ to help move the store!! Do you need a different chair, table, or remodeling supplies? Check out the Re-Store. Everything is on sale on Saturdays, at an even lower price. Do you have furniture or appliances that you no longer need? Call 970-352-1404 for free pick-up.



CEMAC

CEMAC...Caring, Evangelism, Membership, Activities Commission have begun plans for 2022. We would like to bring back our monthly gatherings. In the spirit of Valentine’s Day our first activity will be a *Chocolate Throwdown!* Mark your calendars for Sunday, February 13th after the worship service. Sloppy Joes, chips and drinks will be provided. We asked that you bring your favorite, famous (or infamous) chocolate treat to share. Who knows, you might go home saying your chocolate creation is an award winner, (hint...hint)! Hope to see you there!

UMW News



As 2021 comes to a close we look back at annual district meetings being held via zoom. Some of our members took part in them.

We began our own in person meetings in September with a birthday celebration for our centurions & program on treasures of the past.

Since our president, Raylene, stepped down the decision was made to try a combined leadership role of unit meetings taking turns with monthly programs. We are excited to add new members but unfortunately, we also said goodbye to some lovely ladies.

We hosted UMW Sunday in October with Deb Polansky as guest speaker. UMW Sunday is also when our quilt ladies have their annual quilt sale.

Our recent calendar sale fund raiser will go toward support of our local agencies. Our scholarship program gives financial aid through the Aims Foundation to deserving students. We are looking forward to adding to that fund for the coming year.

The year end Christmas party meeting in December saw lots of snack goodies to share, music, songs & a visit from Santa. Ho HO Ho!

The February meeting program will be on Prayer and Self Denial plus a presentation about aprons. Members are asked to bring any aprons they would like to share.

The UMW meets in Fellowship Hall at 1:30 pm on the 2nd Thursday every month except July & August. All women of the church are invited.

UMW Leadership Team



Local and Global

Local and Global is responsible for the mission work of our church. Thanks to the generous offerings of our congregation at Easter and Christmas, we can offer financial support to approximately ten different missions, here in Greeley, Weld County and throughout the world.

We also participate in local activities by volunteering at Habitat for Humanity, assembling bags of food for needy students so they have food for the weekend (Weld Food Bank), tutoring children who have been identified by their principal as needing some additional attention (Kids Hope), serve lunch for the needy on the second Saturday of each month (Abundant Life) and arrange for flowers at Christmas and Easter.

If you are interested in any of our group's activities and/or would like to become a member of Local and Global, please contact me. We welcome your participation!!

Thank you,
Donni Clark
970 330-5940



In October 2021 Local and Global Commission held a Food Drive. With the donations received in October and your generosity throughout the year, FUMC was able to send \$1,200.00 to the Weld Food Bank in November. We received the following note:

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your donation of \$1,200.00! It will provide much needed meals to people in our community living with hunger. This time of year, as the temperatures outside lower, our hungry neighbors face the added stress of heating bills. The cost of living continues to increase at a rate that is hard for many to keep pace with and leads struggling families to make a difficult choice between turning on the heat and eating healthy foods. As the holidays approach, such choices are even more difficult and often, healthy foods are the first things to go when money is tight.

Your kindness is making an impact in the lives of so many people who come to us for help. We are grateful that you choose to support us. Together we can make sure children go to bed warm and with full tummies, that seniors do not have to choose between paying for food or medicine, and that working families can make ends meet, especially through the cold months and holiday times.

Thank you for being our partner in the fight against hunger!

With gratitude,

Kaycee Lytle, Board President and

Robert O'Connor, Chief Executive Officer

Meals at Abundant Life Church



Abundant Life Meals

Many of you know that various groups from our church occasionally provide a meal on a Saturday, served at the Abundant Life Fellowship Church here in Greeley. Augie, the person in charge of this program, said that they have been doing this for 40 years! What started out as a meal primarily for the homeless has become a meal for the homeless and needy. Most of the people who partake of this meal are not homeless, but their meager funds are not sufficient for them to have good, healthy meals. Various churches and charities around town help out with this.

Our church has committed to providing a meal the second Saturday of every month. We are not able to do this all on our own. Thankfully, the Family of Christ Church does three of those per year. Our church has in the past been able to provide the other nine. Last year we could not do that. We very much miss Angie Rains, who has moved to Windsor to be closer to family; she and friends used to do the December meal. We have also lost the Praise Team from our schedule because, with only one service at our church, the Praise Team has been combined with the Chancel Choir. That is great for our choir, but it left another hole in our Abundant Life Meal schedule.

Pastor Al has said that we can put Pastor Al and friends on the schedule for the March meal, but we still do not have anyone for the December meal. We currently have Local & Global (twice), Family of Christ Church (three times), Barb Wolf & friends, Chancel Choir, RuthMary & friends, UMW, Bell Choir, and now Pastor Al & friends. I am asking you to prayerfully consider working together with some other members of our church or some of your friends outside of the church to take on the December meal. When Angie and friends were doing this meal, they took the leftover [frozen] turkey from our church Thanksgiving meal and created a meal from that.

If you would like more information about how this works, please call me. If you are ready to jump right in and volunteer for this, please call me. Thank you!

Joyce Langham 970-702-4482



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.



Trustee Corner

Many have said that the only thing that works in an old building is the owner, or in the case of our church, those trusted to keep it working. With a building the age of FUMC Greeley's facility, it is as much of a true statement as can be imagined! According to the Book of Discipline: (Sec 2525), trustees are part of a committee of not fewer than three or more than nine people, elected to... "have the supervision, oversight, and care" of all the property and equipment owned by the church. We have to be sure everything is kept working, kept insured in case of disaster, and kept secure, free, and accessible to all members. We also manage all the gifts, bequests, trusts, and endowments made to the church for future property maintenance and be sure we are doing the work expected of those gifts. Sometimes it means knowing when a hammer is a better tool than a screwdriver. Sometimes it means knowing when the church is getting the best value for their investment in repair or replacement. Most of the time, it just means taking the time to look around and see what needs to be done with an ounce of prevention before it costs us all a pound of cure and managing a project to make it so. So, the next time you come to church, and the doors work, the lights work, the restrooms work, the kitchen works, the building is a comfortable temperature, the roof isn't leaking, and you can hear the service, find time to thank a trustee for their contributions to the committee!

William Zaggel, Chair



Sermon Series

For the month of February, we are going to look at the most often overlooked and misunderstood ways God is revealed. The Holy Spirit. As we study the scriptures, we will see that the Holy Spirit has a long and rich tradition working in tandem with the Father and the Son. We will also see that the Holy Spirit is tasked with many roles as one third of the Holy trinity. Come join us in the month of February and learn more.

February 6: Standalone sermon on communion.

February 13: The indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

February 20: The Spirit that transforms and inspires.

February 27: The Spirit that teaches and interprets.





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 16th: 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



February Sermon Series:

February 6: Standalone sermon on communion.

February 13: The indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

February 20: The Spirit that transforms and inspires.

February 27: The Spirit that teaches and interprets.