

# 2022



## Celebration Time

10:00 AM Sundays

*"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)

Siblings in Christ,

A little over a week ago was the first day of spring. As it approached, I was getting excited. I had dreams of leaving my coat at home, the sun shining on my face, and reading on my back patio. On March 21<sup>st</sup> I was ready to celebrate the arrival of spring. You can imagine my disappointment when spring started out cloudy, with a high of 42 degrees. I was going to have to wait a few more days before I got the weather I was looking for. I admit, this is a mild disappointment. Throughout our lives we will all face greater disappointments, loss, and heartache. What does Christ have to say about horrible, heart-wrenching events in our lives?

In Luke 13: 1-9, two horrific events are addressed. In the first event, it seems that Herod ordered the massacre of some Jews while they were in the temple worshipping and sacrificing to the Lord. The disciples wanted to have some understanding as to why this would happen. They expressed an old belief that these people were being punished for their sins. Jesus responded, "That is not true, but turn things around or you could perish just like they did."

The second event was a tower in Siloam that had collapsed tragically, killing eighteen people. I would say eighteen innocent people, but for the disciples, that doesn't make sense. They ask, "Surely you would say these people were worse offenders than everyone else in Jerusalem to be killed in this fashion." Jesus again replied, "No, but turn it around or you might perish like they did."

Jesus' response to both events is twofold. The first is to correct the thought that somehow these victims of tragedy were worse sinners. In answering that question, he just says, "no." He doesn't expound upon it. He wants to make it as clear and simple as he can. Loss, pain, disappointment, and heartache are not the will of God. God does not punish us or use tragedies to correct or improve us. Jesus doesn't even explain WHY these events take place. His response is implying that WHY is the wrong question. In the second phase of his answer Jesus tries to reframe our thinking about disappointment and hurt.

Jesus says, "turn it around or you will perish like they did." How did they die? They died unexpectedly. They died without the last opportunity to express love, gratitude, or forgiveness. They died with unfinished business, that will remain unfinished. Jesus' response was to use tragedy as a reminder to love deeply and freely, to forgive often, lift rather than tear down, give thanks rather than complain. Jesus teaches us that we all are going to have heartache and loss. You don't know when it is going to come. Live in the Kingdom today. Today is a good day to love. When we do that, we live into our eternity without regret, shame, or guilt.

Right now, there is a great deal of anxiety in our world. War, disease, division, and uncertainty makes these times difficult. How do we respond to heartache and disappointment? How do we care for those during tragedy? How do we reach out to a hurting world? By being okay with not having all the answers, and deeply loving.

– Pastor 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

### Daniel Mullins

Accompanist

### Evan Messmer

### William Zaggle

Sound and Media

### Mike Villanueva

Custodian

### John Hull

Security

### Ginger Jansson

Newsletter Editor

tgjansson@gmail.com

## FUMC FINANCIALS

### YEAR TO DATE EXPENSES: **Feb 2022**

Conference Apportionment	\$	1,000.00
Communication	\$	282.51
Personnel	\$	47,718.59
Education	\$	16.28
Caring and Evangelism	\$	100.00
Membership Activity	\$	164.75
Worship	\$	474.52
Board of Trustees	\$	27,044.61
Administration	\$	1,526.85
Finance	\$	217.06
Youth/College	\$	11.75
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES: Feb 2022</b>	\$	<b>78,556.92</b>
<b>GIFTS RECEIVED</b>	\$	<b>57,347.04</b>
<b>BUDGET BALANCE</b>	\$	<b>-21,209.88</b>



### **Ways to Give - As you are able**

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

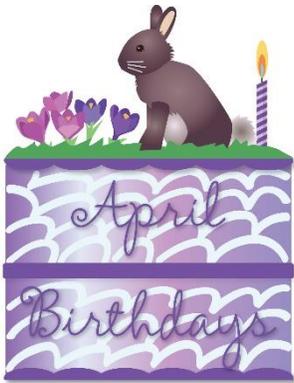
\*You can mail your check to the church (917 10<sup>th</sup> Ave, Greeley 80631)

\*Online contributions can be made from our website: [fumcgreeley.org](http://fumcgreeley.org).

\*Another way to give is to use your King Soopers 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.

Zetta Scheel	4/05	86 yrs.
Mary Bear	4/18	92 yrs.
Helen Nelson	4/19	94 yrs.
Donald Lutz	4/20	86 yrs.
Neva Adams	4/21	89 yrs.
Jerry Benner	4/23	84 yrs.
Sharon Elliott	4/26	81 yrs.



Gerry Bertelsen 2/17/2022

### 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. 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.



*Announcing...*

The deadline for the **May Messenger** is **Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup>**. 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.

## Volunteers Needed for GIA Clothing Bank



**The 4<sup>th</sup> Monday** of every month four people from First United Methodist Church volunteer at the Greeley Interfaith Association (GIA) Clothing Bank. Jody Scholfield recruits individuals to help for one of the two shifts: 9:30 am to 12 noon or 12 noon to 2:30 pm. Sometimes “the usual suspects” are busy, so Jody needs a longer list of potential volunteers. You could be one of them!! If you are interested, please call Jody at 970-356-2725.



**What is the GIA Clothing Bank?** The Clothing Bank is a secondhand clothing store operated by volunteers from several local churches. Clothing is sold at low prices. Also, several community organizations like Salvation Army, Health Department, United Way provide vouchers to people in need. These vouchers can be redeemed at the Clothing Bank for a certain number of items. The purchaser pays just 10 percent of the already low price. For example, a pair of jeans priced at \$2, would cost the voucher holder only 20 cents.



**Where is it?** The Clothing Bank is located on the corner of 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue and B Street.

**What do the volunteers do?** The main job of the volunteer is pricing the donated clothing items. There is a list of guidelines for pricing. We also take priced items out and hang them on the racks. We do not run the cash register – that takes special training! There is no heavy lifting!!



**What does the Clothing Bank do with the profits?** Income at the Clothing Bank supports the Greeley Interfaith Association. GIA provides grants to community agencies. For example, last year grants were given to the Salvation Army to help purchase a larger freezer and to the Holocaust Memorial Week Committee. Also, some money was used for a new roof for the Clothing Bank building.



**Can we donate clothing to the Clothing Bank?** YES!! You can take it with you when you volunteer, or you can bring it to church and put it in the Clothing Bank barrel and it will be delivered for you. ONLY CLOTHING.

**Can I shop at the Clothing Bank?** Yes. It’s open Mondays to Thursdays, from 10 am to 2 pm plus two Saturdays a month. If you volunteer, you can also shop and pay just 10 percent of the price. What a deal!!



**How can I help?** Call Jody at 970-356-2725.



## MISSION TRIP OPPORTUNITY IN 2022

Place: The Land, east of Denver

When: June 12-16

What: Our group will be working with the leaders at The Land to learn how to serve through caring for our earth through sustainable farming and community service projects. For more information on the Land's ministry, click here: <https://thelandaaurora.org/> Mark your calendars. More details will come.



The Education Commission is excited about having VBS once again this summer! The dates and times have been set. It will be June 6-9 (Monday through Thursday), from 5 p.m. till 7 p.m. There will be a simple meal served between 5 and 5:30, and the fun activities for VBS will be from 5:30 till 7. Start thinking now about grandchildren, nieces and nephews, friends, and neighbors whom you might want to invite. Also think about whether you would be willing to volunteer to help in any way, for one or all the days. The theme of this year's VBS has not yet been decided, but it will be fun, as always! More information to follow as the time gets closer.

## CEMAC

The Caring, Evangelism, Membership, Activities Commission will be hosting a Maundy Thursday Seder meal on April 14th at 6PM. We will be providing roasted lamb with fixings as well as more traditional Seder elements of this Passover meal. We are asking that you RSVP by April 10th, so we know how much food to prepare. We hope you can join us.



On May 13th, CEMAC will be celebrating the coming end of the school year with a Family Movie night. Mark your calendars; you don't want to miss the fun. More details will follow in next month's newsletter.



## UMW News



News from the UMW: The weather has been a stinker bringing in snow and cold every time we have plans for our meetings lately. Our guest speaker from the food bank we had scheduled for our March meeting has graciously agreed to reschedule his presentation for our April meeting. That meeting is April 14th at 1:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Beth Hyde has also changed from March to April as our hostess.

We hope we have a good turn out and more of our "snow bunnies" can be present. If you can't come, please remember to keep your pledge up to date. If you still need a pledge card for this year, please let Marcia Walters know so she can get one to you.

Sincerely,  
*Donna Hettinger*, Secretary



## From SPPRC

We have hired 2 new musicians who will enhance our worship experience.

**Daniel Mullins** is our new pianist and choir accompanist. The following is his background.

**Daniel Mullins** is currently in his first year of the M.M. program in collaborative piano at the University of Northern Colorado. He earned his master's degrees in violin performance and string pedagogy from Ohio University in 2017 and earned his bachelor's degree from Ohio University in violin performance in 2013.

While studying violin, Daniel was a freelance collaborative pianist at Ohio University and The Ohio State University. He accompanied students, professional musicians, and collegiate faculty throughout the state of Ohio in recitals and competitions. In the fall of 2019, he became an adjunct professor at Ohio University, acting as a staff accompanist and instructor of class piano for musical theater majors.

Mr. Mullins is also passionate about teaching and has been a private and group instructor in various capacities. He was a 'Master Teacher' of violin, viola, and piano for the Athens Community Music School from 2017-2021, as well as the director of the ACMS 'Cadet Strings' program in Athens, OH. In the summer of 2017, he was appointed the lead string instructor for the 'Dover House Strings/Arco Strings' program in McConnelsville, Ohio. From 2017-2019, Daniel was the Professor of Strings at Rio Grande University.

When he completes his master's degree, he plans to pursue a Doctoral degree in collaborative piano. The final goal is to become a full-time professor at a university; teaching, collaborating, and performing as much as possible.

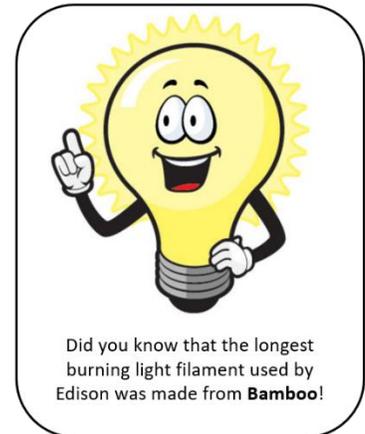
**Kevin Montgomery** has been hired as the drummer for the Praise Band. He is a freshman at UNC majoring in Jazz Percussion. He is from Colorado Springs.

*Beverly Williams*  
Chair SPPRC

## Trustee's Corner - Watt Watching Wisdom

Light is always an interesting topic. We all know that in Genesis 1:3 God said, "Let there be light". But while creating the Sun and the Universe might have been the eureka moment, however, some might argue that "understanding" was a big part of that proclamation. Understanding God's love and the wisdom of the word, as in "seeing the light" or "becoming enlightened". While enlightenment might be in full swing at FUMC, seeing the actual lumens is getting a bit difficult in places given the challenge in finding florescent tubes these days. LEDs are the new green wave and the Trustees are pushing to get new LED lighting where we can, especially in the fellowship hall.

A new LED tube can product over 3000 lumens with only 26watts of energy (about 50% of a traditional florescent tube). They are also more efficient in directing light DOWN instead of both UP and DOWN, when what needs lighting is rarely above the light bulb. This means less lumens are actually required in addition to losing less energy in heat. All these electrical savings add up to dollars. The trustees are working on a plan to try and update all the lights in the fellowship hall to new LED formats, a projected power saving of over \$800/yr. under regular use. Be watching for new ways to both see the light and become enlightened within FUMC in the near future.



## Meals at Abundant Life Church



### Abundant Life Meals

town help out with this.

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

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, as 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.

The Trustees have agreed to be 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

## 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.



**Need A Ride?**

## *HIS Ride*

If you would like to start attending service on Sunday morning and need a ride, please call 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.

## **Holy Week Schedule April 13-17**

**Maundy Thursday:** 6:00 Seder Meal in the fellowship hall. The Seder Meal is the traditional meal our Jewish siblings serve to celebrate the Passover events in the book of Exodus. It is also the meal that Jesus took the bread and the cup, infused new meaning, and created our communion sacrament. This will be a full meal with lamb, asparagus, spinach salad, potatoes, and banana pudding. We would appreciate an RSVP with the office. Please call the office @ 353-5522.

**Good Friday:** 12:00 PM, in the chapel. This will be an introspective service as we remember the sacrifice Jesus made on the cross.

**Holy Saturday:** 10:00 AM, in Lincoln Park. Easter Egg hunt.

**Easter:** 10:00 in the Sanctuary. Worship celebration that Christ has risen.

## What does it take to stream a service on Sunday?

The process usually starts early in the week finding out what songs will be used in the service. Each song is looked up in several of our purchased streaming content licenses (One License, CCLI, and CCS) to be sure we can legally re-broadcast the performance over the internet. The song and license information is formatted into the Credits you see at the end of the service.

By Thursday or Friday evening all of that information has been compiled. It gets combined with what Kathy has collected such as what the scripture lesson will be, the title of the sermon, flow of the service, etc. The stream team (Evan and William) meet at the church and set up the streaming software to include all of the titles and lyrics for the songs and text for the scripture using custom software, written by William, that can display and page the text on the screen during the service.

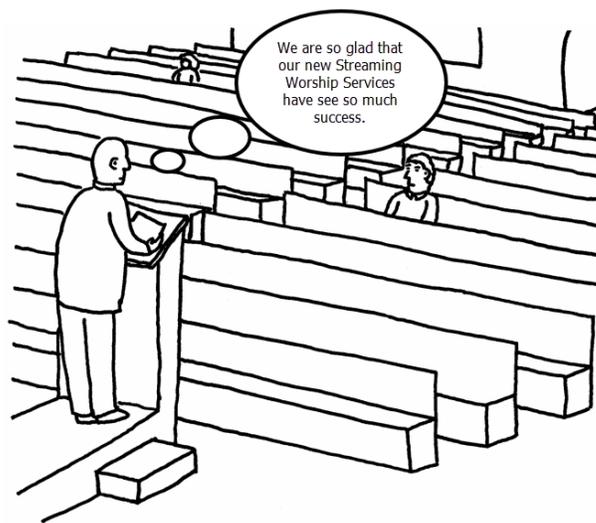
We currently have 5 cameras used to offer the best viewing angle to our on-line worshipers. Much of the setup time includes thinking through the sequence of camera use that minimizes camera movement and offers the best visual experience. Some of you may remember when we only had one camera and it had to move to each new component of the service. More custom software, written by William, allows multiple preset positions to be defined for each camera and automatically moved to those Left/Right, Up/Down, and Zoom settings for each scene or element of the service. If we get a Pre-Recorded children's service from Nikki, this is added in to be both streamed and played for the congregation.

Last, any new graphics are also added to make the service more visually appealing. Background graphics are typically purchased and updated monthly; accessory graphics are added as needed. Each scene is reviewed for color and fit with the new graphics. After a few hours, a full test run-through of the setup usually confirms that the service is ready to stream on Sunday morning! Now any physical changes to the sanctuary occur like setting up additional microphones for special solo's, Bell Choir, or instrumentalists. Those are mapped through to the audio mixing panel in the balcony and tested.

Sunday morning starts around 8am, opening up the piano, re-testing all the microphones, cameras and presets prior to the choir and service team arriving. A full-service walk-through takes place with everyone at 9am where the stream-team can double check each camera is pointing to where the performer intends to be during the service, that their microphones are properly placed and working for optimal sound collection, and that the songs, verses, scripture, and titles are all as expected.

The actual stream is started at 9:45 so that if any issues occur during the initiation there will be time to address them prior to 10am. During the service, hopefully there are at least two operators (we only have two now), controlling both the visual and audio experience of our on-line audience. We are far from perfect, but we keep learning, keep practicing, keep tweaking software and settings, and have come a long way since our first streamed service following the outbreak of the pandemic. One operator can manage both, but the quality of service is at risk.

It's 5 hours of input for only a 1-hour output, but that can be said for any of our ministers and musicians. Just like them, we all love what we do and love the comments knowing we are helping people to remain part of our congregation and fellowship even when they can't do so physically. Thanks to all of you for your continued patience and support as we work to always provide what we feel is one of the most professionally produced on-line worship services you will probably find for a church of our size and budget.



The Stream-Team



## Holy Week

**April 14 at 6:00 pm - Maundy Thursday Seder Meal**  
**April 15 at noon – Good Friday in the Chapel**  
**April 16 at 10:00 am –Easter Egg Hunt at Lincoln Park**  
**April 17 at 10:00 am – Easter Service**