

# 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)

Happy New Year family of God,

The first Sunday of Advent is upon us, and that is the official start of the Christian new year. The new year, or Advent, starts four Sundays before Christmas. It is a time of preparation and expectancy. I know a little bit about expectancy. A few years back, a very oddly shaped present showed up under our tree weeks before Christmas. The middle was octagonal. One side was long, narrow, and pointed at the end. The other side was a half of a sphere. It was truly perplexing. What made it even more captivating is that it was from my daughter. Meg is by far the best gift giver in the family. When you see, "From Meg" on a present, you must wonder what she is up to. What made it even worse is it was a gift for me. I spent weeks looking at that thing, shaking it, guessing what was inside. When Christmas came, guess which present I opened first? It turned out to be a very well disguised Motown album that I love. In fact, every time I play that album, I am filled with joy thinking back to how she had me so fooled. I guessed everything under the sun, except for a record.

As we enter Advent, the decorations will go up, parties will be thrown, Christmas Carols will fill the air. I hope that you will take it as an opportunity to start anticipating what might God be up to. As we wait for Christ to enter our lives once again this Christmas season, let us be reminded that through Jesus, God makes all things new. That waiting and expectation is an act of faith that changes our daily lives. When we believe God is working towards a beautiful future, we are filled with hope, wondering what that might be. There is a peace that comes from knowing God is in control and is blessing us. Joy springs forth as we look at every moment as an opportunity to encounter God. Then when we share that faith, we share the love of God.

For me, Advent is a time of wonder. It is a time of expectancy and the anticipation of Christ. It is a time when I turn back to God and notice a change in my attitude, my demeanor, my thoughts, my outlook, and my actions. My prayer in this Advent season is that you may experience the truth that Jesus changes everything.

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

### Daniel Mullins

Director

Alleluia Bell Choir

### Travis Kornegay

Organist

### Daniel Mullins

Accompanist

### Evan Messmer

### William Zaggle

Sound and Media

### Erika Vasquez

Custodian

### John Hull

Security

### Ginger Jansson

Newsletter Editor

tgjansson@gmail.com

## FUMC FINANCIALS

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

Conference Apportionment	\$	4,500.00
Communication	\$	1,646.39
Personnel	\$	220,709.78
Education	\$	1,184.03
Caring and Evangelism	\$	97.84
Membership Activity	\$	307.09
Worship	\$	695.08
Board of Trustees	\$	71,854.76
Administration	\$	8,463.11
Finance	\$	711.72
Youth/College	\$	81.75
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES: Oct. 2022</b>	\$	<b>310,251.55</b>
<b>GIFTS RECEIVED</b>	\$	<b>295,130.70</b>
<b>BUDGET BALANCE</b>	\$	<b>-15,120.85</b>



### Ways to Give

\*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.

Donna Schmidt	12/05	81 yrs
Joyce Patterson	12/08	82 yrs.
Flo Mikkelson	12/08	91 yrs.
Aris Montgomery	12/09	97 yrs.
Ron Fritzler	12/11	80 yrs.
Thelma Richard	12/14	95 yrs.
Shirley Jacoby	12/15	94 yrs.
Dorothy Benner	12/17	84 yrs.



We celebrate the anniversaries of our church members who  
have been married 50 years or longer!

Darryl & Sandi Schulz	12/23	55 yrs.
Jim & Patti Kunkle	12/26	52 yrs.
Jack & Cheryl Schneider	12/27	52 yrs.

We rejoice as a family as we celebrate the following baptisms:

Samuel Glendenning	11/13
Emmett Glendenning	11/13
Quincy Mills	11/27
Killian Mills	11/27



Our deepest sympathy to the families of:

Pearl Ann Adams	10/27/2022
Wilda Burkhart	11/07/2022
Pat Pringle	11/11/2022



## 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.



*Announcing...*

The deadline for the January 2023 *Messenger* is **Monday, December 19<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 their email address to me or to the office at [office@fumcgreeley.org](mailto:office@fumcgreeley.org). Thank you.

### From Education Commission

Mark your calendars. Our kids will be presenting their Christmas pageant during the worship service on **December 18<sup>th</sup>**. We hope that everyone will plan on coming and supporting our Children's Ministry.



*Welcome*



### From Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee

As you know Mike Villanueva is moving back to Texas. His last day was November 18<sup>th</sup>. We will miss Mike and Olivia but wish them all the best on their new adventures. SPPRC is happy to announce we have hired a new part-time custodian. Her name is Erika Vasquez and we believe she will be a great fit here at FUMC.

## Holiday Giving Tree

We wish to thank the congregation for supporting the Angel Tree again this year. It was a great success.

We will have our Hat and Mitten Tree up through the month of December. You can bring your donations of hats, scarves, mittens, and gloves and place them on or around the tree. These will be placed in our blessing box during the cold winter season.



## Membership Activities Committee

### Parents Afternoon Out!



Still have some shopping to do? Need to do it without the kiddos? Just need a break and have some “us” time? We will be having a parent’s afternoon out on **December 10<sup>th</sup> from 2 to 5 PM**. We will be showing a Christmas movie, making a craft and having pizza. Please sign up in the East Narthex so we can plan accordingly. Thank you.

### Christmas Lights

Mark your calendars for **December 18th**. We will be warming up the Bus and doing a Christmas Lights drive. We will meet at the church at 5:30, spend about an hour looking at lights and then come back to the church for cookies and hot chocolate. Please sign up in the East Narthex if you plan to join us. Thank you.



## News from United Women in Faith

The United Methodist Women organization is now called United Women in Faith. The mission, vision, and purpose has changed slightly. The mission is to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship and education so that they can inspire, influence, and impact local and global communities. Our vision is to turn faith, hope, and love into action on behalf of women, children and youth around the world.



There are several questions about our name change and we will share those with you. The first question is: Why are we taking a new operation name? The name United Methodist Women was adopted in 1972, signaling a change not only in the life of the church but in the lives of women and how they could organize for missions. Our new name is part of an overall move to refresh our organization that includes a new look, a new feel with new and improved programs. We will be able to better nurture our current members while welcoming into our sisterhood new women who want to put their love in action. The new operating name is also welcoming to women whose local churches may choose to align with another denomination or who are already members of other denominations.

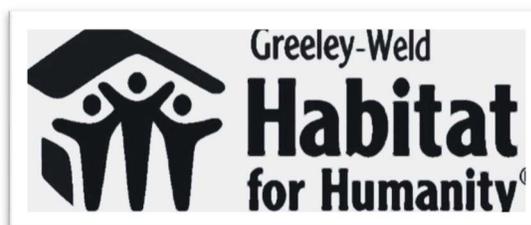
We just had our November meeting Thursday, Nov 10<sup>th</sup>. The meeting topic was World Thank Offering. The United Women in Faith was in charge of our church service 11/20. November is our World Thank Offering and we wish to extend the chance for the congregation to give also.

We will be having a Christmas get together in December, stay tuned. Please show up and meet our wonderful women.

Marcia Walters  
UWIF Treasurer

### **Christmas Cookie Walk**

- **Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>**
- **At Zoe's, 711 10<sup>th</sup> Street**
- **9 am to 12 noon**



Plan to do your Christmas cookie baking the easy way: buy them at the Habitat for Humanity Cookie Walk. A huge variety of cookies and candy will be for sale by the pound. Proceeds go to support the Habitat Faith Build home.

Bakers are also needed. Make your favorite cookies or candy and bring it to Zoe's on Friday afternoon. THANKS for supporting Greeley-Weld Habitat for Humanity!!

## Poinsettia Orders



It is the time of year when we think about decorating the sanctuary for Advent. The order form for poinsettias will be in the bulletin the first 2 Sundays in December and placed on the table in the East Narthex. You can order a plant in memory or honor of a loved one; the plants will be used for the Advent season and can be picked up after the Christmas Eve service. If you are unable to complete the order form, please call the office to order a plant. Deadline to order poinsettias is **December 15<sup>th</sup>**. Thank you.

## Local and Global Commission

Local and Global is the outreach commission arm of the church. Our funding comes from your generous donations at Christmas and Easter. Recently, we have talked about Habitat for Humanity and the Weld Food Bank. I would like to share information on some of the other nonprofits that we, as a church, support. We send funds to Water for People, an international mission that works to insure that people have good drinking water. Funds are also sent to the Peace Corps in Ghana. Local nonprofits that we support include Kids Hope (mentoring an elementary school student), Greeley Family House, Catholic Charities, A Woman's Place and Abundant Life (monthly lunch for the needy). Another local mission is our support of the Greeley Interfaith Clothing Bank. We support the clothing bank by collecting clothing from our congregation. Donations can be left in the bins outside of the parlor. In addition to collecting clothing, several members of our church volunteer their time at the bank sorting clothes and helping customers. We have also supported UMCOR and our own church when special needs are identified. If you wish to donate to our missions, please use the Christmas envelopes found in the pews on Christmas Eve or write Local/Global on the memo line of your check. Thank you.



Joe and MaryEtta Moore send their sincere thanks for the send off on their last Sunday here. It especially meant so much to Joe. Their new address is:

Joe & Mary Etta Moore  
1301 E. P St, Unit D  
Torrington, WY 82240



## Choir Presentation



Come and experience First United Methodist Church's Lessons and Carols during our 10 AM. worship service **Sunday, December 11th**. Lesson and Carols Service was a Christian worship tradition started in the 19th century that originally told the story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus all told in nine short bible readings. It would begin in Genesis and then would continue to tell the prophecy as told in the Gospels. These stories are accompanied by various Christmas carols, hymns, instrumental pieces, and choir anthems that served as interludes and would be interspersed between the various readings. Lessons and Carols are traditionally celebrated during the Advent Season or near or on Christmas Eve.

If you would like to be a part of the Advent Choir, please join us Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 7 PM and Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM in the sanctuary for rehearsal. The music is very simple, and this opportunity is open to any and all persons.

If you are interested, just show during rehearsal time or contact Travis at 970-405-1340 or [ttkornegay@gmail.com](mailto:ttkornegay@gmail.com) for further information.



## Christmas Eve Worship Service

There will be one worship service on **Christmas Eve at 5:00 PM**. This is a family friendly service of Carols, Communion and Candlelight. Invite your family and friends to join us.

## Christmas Day Service

Our Sunday service on Christmas Day will be virtual only. There will not be an in-person service. Pastor Al's message will be available to view by 9:00 AM Christmas morning.



## Blessing Box

The little red Blessing Box is an opportunity for members of FUMC to be blessed by being a blessing to others. We continue to collect “grab and go” foods and snacks, small water bottles as well as hygiene items (ie travel size shampoo/conditioner and soaps, tooth brushes, wash cloths, deodorant, etc). We also need gallon sized Ziploc bags to put items in. All items can be placed on the table across the hall from the office.



We can use volunteers to help keep that room organized, fill baggies and place items in the Blessings Box during the week, please contact Kathy @ 970- 353-5522



**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.

We are looking for 1 or 2 substitute drivers to run the bus if our regular bus drivers cannot fill in for each other (which has rarely happened). Please let the office know if you are interested.

## Liturgists

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.



## Greeters



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.



**December 18<sup>th</sup> –**  
Christmas Light Tour

**Christmas Eve –**  
5:00 PM Service

**Christmas Day –**  
Virtual Service Only