

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

Dear Siblings in Christ,

This week we are taking the church youth to a haunted corn maze. I overheard a couple of the Middle schoolers preparing for this frightful night. Their preparation came down to three basic themes. First, to dress warm; last year was so cold. Second, when we get scared, remember it is all fake. Third, if you go through the haunted house, go with Pastor Sharon NOT Pastor Al. Apparently, one of us is more natural at giving care and comfort. Who knew! What I really loved about this conversation is that they knew they were going to encounter something unusual, and they had to prepare for it. It is my prayer that every Sunday morning whoever joins us in worship will have a God encounter. They will experience the divine in an unusual and powerful way. For that to happen, we need to prepare for God encounters. For me, there are two essential aspects to help me prepare to encounter God.

First, to be ready for a God encounter, we need to expect to encounter God. Sundays used to be so exciting for me. I would be fired up saying to myself, "Sunday, funday!" I was excited because I was expecting to run into God. As I have grown in my faith, I have realized that any day, anytime, anywhere can be "funday". God can show up in our lives, often in the most unexpected times. Are we looking for God in the sanctuary, at work, the grocery store? The spirit can move pretty fast; if we aren't paying attention, we might miss it.

Second, we need to take time, a breath, and let go. Let go of all those items that cloud our hearts and minds from connecting with God. I hope you take advantage of the prelude in worship. Sure, greet the people around you, introduce yourself to a visitor. However, then it is time to center yourself for worship. Take some deep breaths and release your cares and worries. When we put away that laundry list of concerns and projects, we are free to open up to God's movement. When we focus on praising God, the Spirit seems to come into a clearer focus.

Every week I walk the sanctuary. I pray over each pew. This is the prayer I say, "Lord, bless those that will sit here this Sunday. May they experience you and be strengthened. Amen" I hope that prayer is manifested into reality for you each week. I pray that you are prepared for it.

Peace, *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

Mike Villanueva

Custodian

John Hull

Security

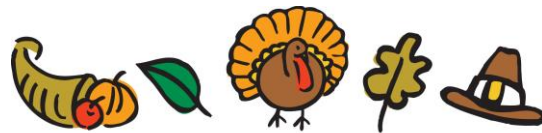
Ginger Jansson

Newsletter Editor
tgjansson@gmail.com

FUMC FINANCIALS

YEAR TO DATE EXPENSES: **September 2022**

Conference Apportionment	\$	4,500.00
Communication	\$	1,516.62
Personnel	\$	201,831.58
Education	\$	1,244.03
Caring and Evangelism	\$	97.84
Membership Activity	\$	307.09
Worship	\$	686.03
Board of Trustees	\$	63,460.81
Administration	\$	7,822.07
Finance	\$	711.72
Youth/College	\$	18.75
TOTAL EXPENSES: Sept. 2022	\$	282,196.54
GIFTS RECEIVED	\$	256,043.27
BUDGET BALANCE	\$	-26,153.27



SO MANY BLESSINGS

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 10th Ave, Greeley 80631)

*Online contributions can be made from our website: 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.



Leta Smith	11/06	88 yrs.
Willard Johnson	11/10	103 yrs.
Julie Haworth	11/13	80 yrs.
Richard Peterson	11/27	93 yrs.

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 **December Messenger** is **Monday, November 14th**. Ginger will be out of town this month so please send your articles to Kathy at office@fumcgreeley.org

Welcome new members

We are so happy to welcome the following new members who joined our church family on October 9th:

Susan Geiger
Mike Erbes
Devin Cummins
Kyle Mills
Camille Mills
Mark Glendenning
Christine Glendenning



Annual Sewing for Service Quilt Sale



Lots of great things will be happening at church on **Sunday, November 20th**. Of course, there will be good things to eat because it's the Annual Thanksgiving Feast. There will also be beautiful quilts/comforters to admire and purchase.

During 2022, Sewing for Service has already donated or made on commission 84 quilts. Don't worry! We saved the most beautiful ones for you!! Most of the quilts will be twin size, but we also have several colorful quilts for children and flannel baby blankets for wee ones.

We have received several donations of completed quilts, fabric and batting this year, so we have even more creative designs. The money from the sale helps us buy batting, thread and repairs to keep the sewing machines humming. Among the donations received was an 'ancient' spool of thread, with the price marked – 19 cents! Now a spool of thread costs ten times that much, at least. **HOWEVER**, the prices of our quilts have not increased.

Bargains, galore!!

Sewing for Service meets Wednesday afternoons in Fellowship Hall from 1 to 3 p.m. We can always use an extra pair of hands to help tie knots. Some of our members work at home, pinning the fabric so it is ready to be stitched or tying knots while watching TV. Would you like to help with that? Or, there are zillions of squares that have been cut and are waiting for someone to arrange them in attractive patterns and designs. Are you just waiting to release your artistic talents? Join our group! There is always some way you can help this important outreach to our community.

Kairos Prison Ministry

The prison environment is a dark place, where prisoners face violence, anger, gangs and loneliness daily.

Through the work of over 30,000 volunteers, Kairos Prison Ministry brings the light, love and friendship of Jesus Christ into the lives of prisoners and their families. They learn they are forgiven and they learn they are loved. It is truly a life changing, and often lifesaving experience.

Kairos Prison Ministry volunteers step into this darkness to hold a 3 ½-day weekend, with the majority of participants made up primarily of negative leaders within the prison. Through talks, discussions and Chapel meditations, **prisoners learn that they are worthy of God's love, light and grace.**

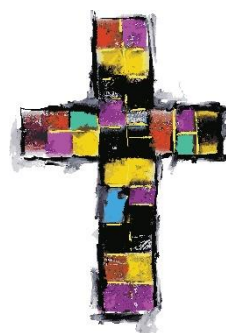
After the *Kairos Inside* Weekend, "Prayer and Share", accountability groups are held weekly along with Continuing Ministry with Kairos volunteers monthly.

The ultimate goal of Kairos Inside is to build a Christian community to pray and fellowship together on a weekly basis by nurturing each other in their faith walk and providing accountability. This is the heart of Kairos! The fact that we return again and again to each prison for Kairos Continuing Ministry is what distinguishes Kairos from other prison ministries. It can be very challenging to maintain a Christian lifestyle in prison, and **without our follow up support, the efforts of the 3 ½ day retreat would quickly be lost to the prison environment.**

Kairos programs have gained the respect of the correctional systems in the states served. In Colorado, the head of the Department of Corrections has said, he would like us to have program in all the prisons in the state.

I feel blessed to have been called to do this ministry. I have seen Christ work inside those walls and touch those most in need of his love and forgiveness.

Ruth Mary Lyons



Holiday Giving Tree

The holidays are quickly approaching and our church is once again partnering with the Salvation Army to provide gifts for local children. The Giving Tree with tags will be available in the East Narthex on **Sunday, November 20th**. Tags will include a child's name, age, clothing sizes and toy suggestions. Follow the instructions on the tag to sign up for a child. You do not need to fulfill all requests listed on the tag. Your unwrapped gifts are due to the church office no later than **Sunday, December 4th**.



And for those who would like to participate in this holiday project but are unable to shop, we have elves that will assist you. For more information contact Linda Moody (303-847-1964) or Michele Roberts (970-531-0792), no later than November 27th. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



Membership Activities Committee

Time to Talk Turkey!



Mark your calendars and make plans to join us on November 20th for our Annual Church-wide Thanksgiving Meal. Turkey, dressing and all the fixings will be served. Please sign up by **November 13th** if you plan on coming. There are many opportunities to help as well. A sign-up sheet for attendance, as well as helpers, can be found in the East Narthex. Please talk to Rod Poeschl if you have any questions.

Christmas Lights

Mark your December 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.



Reception for Mike Villanueva

As you may know, Mike will be moving back to Texas at the end of the year. We will be holding a reception for him on **November 13th** after the worship service. Please stop by the Fellowship Hall for a piece of cake and wish Mike and Olivia farewell as they begin this new journey in their lives.

News from United Women in Faith

Women In Faith has had 2 meetings since our last *Message*. In September we had an informal sharing time with some discussion of ideas for future meeting programs. Our October 13th meeting welcomed a new member who has recently joined our church. The program was a result of the sharing of ideas in September as we welcomed Shirley Hart & Vernal Hill, volunteers with the clothing bank. Even those of us who have also volunteered at the clothing bank learned more about it & how they function. If anyone wishes to join in as volunteer, contact our church coordinator Jody Scholfield. Our church supports the clothing bank one Monday a month with either morning 9:30 to 12 noon or afternoon 12 noon to 2:30 choices. They would also welcome someone from our church to learn how to run the cash register.

One of the special treats served at the October meeting was so well liked, several asked for the recipe. So here you are. This was this year's Delaware Co Fair Purple Ribbon Best of Show winner (in Iowa).

Cookie Butter Bars

3 sticks butter, melted	1/3 tsp salt
2 2/3 C. brown sugar	3C. flour
3 large eggs	1 1/2 C. cookie butter
2 egg yolks	1C. Eagle Brand milk
1 1/2 tsp vanilla	1/2 C. pecans, chopped

Preheat oven to 350. In a large bowl combine melted butter & sugar - cool
Mix in eggs, yolks, vanilla then add salt & flour. Spread 1/2 mixture into a 9 x 13" pan. Bake 15 minutes.

Microwave cookie butter and Eagle Brand milk mixing thoroughly. Pour over (warm to cool) bottom layer. Add pecans to remaining batter then spread on top a little at a time. Bake for 30 minutes.

The next WIF meeting will be **November 10th** with the program on World Thank. November is our World Thank month.

Sincerely,
Donna Hettinger, Secretary



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?

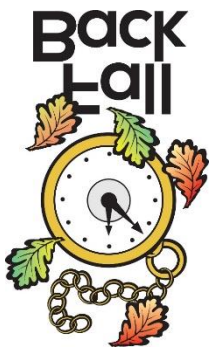
HIS Ride

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.

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.

Trustee News

To keep up with the maintenance of the building, in 2023 the Trustees will be creating 4 sub committees to cover all areas of the church. These will be Lawn/Outdoor, Lights/Sound, Indoor and Bus. If you are interested in helping in any of these areas, please let us know. You do not have to be on the Trustee board or go to the monthly meetings. By using volunteers to cover building maintenance, we hope to keep repair costs down. Contact the office @ 970-353-5522 to volunteer or for more information.



Sunday,
November 6th
turn back your clocks
one hour.

Blessing Box

An idea for the food box out front. I was in the dentist office last week and on a whim asked if they had any toothbrushes and/or toothpaste they were willing to part with. I explained about our church's box for the homeless. They did not have toothbrushes to spare, but they did give me 2 boxes of sample toothpaste. I was more than surprised and realized it never hurts to ask. So, if more in the congregation ask their dentists, maybe we could keep a supply going in the box to help the homeless with their teeth cleaning. And a big thanks and shout out to the dental practice that donated the toothpaste: Norco Dental, 6937 West 10th Street, Greeley.

Thank you,
Sharon Voightmann

Thanks Sharon! We can use donated sample toothbrushes, paste, floss and other travel sized hygiene items to put kits together for the box. Thank you to all the congregation for your continued support of the Blessing Box.



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.



9 Fun Facts About Thanksgiving

Happy Thanksgiving!

As our **marching bands** prepare to take to the streets of Chicago as part of the **Thanksgiving Day Parade**, we decided to dig up a few fun facts about Thanksgiving! Do you know what was served at the first Thanksgiving? How about how many calories are consumed on average on Thanksgiving Day?

Here are nine fun facts about Thanksgiving to share around the dinner table.

- The first Thanksgiving was celebrated in 1621 over a three-day harvest festival. It included 50 Pilgrims, 90 Wampanoag Indians, and lasted three days. It is believed by historians that only five women were present.
- Turkey wasn't on the menu at the first Thanksgiving. Venison, duck, goose, oysters, lobster, eel, and fish were likely served, alongside pumpkins and cranberries (but not pumpkin pie or cranberry sauce!).
- Abraham Lincoln proclaimed Thanksgiving a national holiday on October 3, 1863. Sarah Josepha Hale, the woman who wrote "Mary Had A Little Lamb," convinced Lincoln to make Thanksgiving a national holiday after writing letters for 17 years.
- The history of U.S. presidents pardoning turkeys is patchy. Harry Truman is often credited with being the first president to pardon a turkey, but that's not quite true. He was the first to receive a ceremonial turkey from the National Turkey Federation – and he had it for dinner. John F. Kennedy was the first to let a Thanksgiving turkey go, followed by Richard Nixon who sent his turkey to a petting zoo. George H.W. Bush is the president who formalized the turkey pardoning tradition in 1989.
- There are four towns in the United States named "Turkey." They can be found in Arizona, Texas, Louisiana, and North Carolina.
- The average number of calories consumed on Thanksgiving is 4,500.
- Butterball answers more than 100,000 turkey-cooking questions via their Butterball Turkey Hotline each November and December.
- The tradition of football on Thanksgiving began in 1876 with a game between Yale and Princeton. The first NFL games were played on Thanksgiving in 1920.
- More than 54 million Americans are expected to travel during the Thanksgiving holiday this year. That's up 4.8% from last year.

Source: WorldStrides Educational Travel & Experiences

Happy Thanksgiving



November 13th –
Reception for Mike Villanueva

November 20th –
Holiday Giving Tree

Annual Church Thanksgiving Dinner

December 18th –
Christmas Light Tour