

2023



Celebration Time

10:00 AM Sundays

*"We are God's
People Sharing the
Love of Christ!"*

Website:

www.fumcgreeley.org

Email:

office@fumcgreeley.org

Precious Children of God,

When I was first in ministry, I offered a "train wreck" sermon to the congregation. This type of sermon involves questions about religion submitted by any member of the congregation. During the service, questions are drawn from a hat, and I do my best to answer the questions with no prep work. One question continues to stick in my mind from that experience. Someone asked, "If I don't really have any bad vices, do I have to give something up for Lent?" First, I was impressed that they don't have ANY bad vices. I wondered if they would like to take one of my hundreds of bad vices. Secondly, and I think more importantly, giving something up for Lent isn't about becoming a better or healthier person. That would be a side effect.

Every year, I will hear that someone is giving up chocolate, or even bigger, sweets. I think their hope is to lose a few pounds as they practice this spiritual discipline of fasting from something during Lent. We might hear about practices like no phone during dinner or watching less TV. Some people even choose to add something for Lent like working out or going on an evening walk. Whatever the Lenten practice people choose, it usually revolves around coming closer to the person they are trying to be. Again, that is not what Lent is about. Also, it is really bad theology. It is a practice that reinforces the narrative that we are not good enough. We need to make changes in our lives, to be healthier, happier, have stronger relationships. All of that might be true, but that is what new year resolutions are for. Lent is about drawing closer to God.

So why do we fast for Lent? It is a reminder that all we need is God. If we really love chocolate and we fast from it during lent, it is to pull us closer to God. It works like this; we get an urge for chocolate. What do we do? Do we try to ignore it, muscle through that craving? What if it gets stronger? Maybe we try to find a substitute. Hopefully, at some point we turn back to God. Maybe we would say a prayer, asking God that these pains of craving and sacrifice be a reminder to us, that, in God, there is nothing we really need. We have enough. As we practice, we may even become thankful for the inevitable cravings because they serve to remind us of our dependence on God. This practice doesn't change us so we are better or more lovable in God's eyes. Instead, it has the potential to turn our attention back to the One who already loves us.

May this upcoming Lenten season be one that reinforces how very much you are loved.

Pastor Al Strauss

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

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FUMC FINANCIALS

YEAR TO DATE EXPENSES: **December 2022**

Conference Apportionment	\$	6,000.00
Communication	\$	1,905.93
Personnel	\$	266,532.24
Education	\$	1,361.11
Caring and Evangelism	\$	97.84
Membership Activity	\$	704.26
Worship	\$	1,144.07
Board of Trustees	\$	90,154.04
Administration	\$	11,083.79
Finance	\$	1,002.52
Youth/College	\$	119.30
TOTAL EXPENSES: Dec. 2022	\$	380,105.10
GIFTS RECEIVED	\$	322,599.09
BUDGET BALANCE	\$	-17,666.50



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)

*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.

Carol Walso	2/01	83 yrs.
Ulafay Fry	2/02	94 yrs.
Maryetta Moore	2/02	86 yrs.
Ed Bowker	2/04	89 yrs.
Leon Grube	2/04	83 yrs.
Beth Hyde	2/05	86 yrs.
D Joe Moore	2/07	86 yrs.
John Elliott	2/09	84 yrs.
Luella Kinnison	2/14	88 yrs.
Evelyn Ward	2/17	102 yrs.
Lee Hewitt	2/17	83 yrs.
Virgil Harper	2/19	88 yrs.
Lola Buel	2/21	94 yrs.
Naomi Kauffman	2/24	99 yrs.



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

Chuck & Donna Hettinger 2/12 51 yrs.

Our deepest sympathy to the families of:

LaVerne Dressor January 7, 2023
 Betty Ault January 22, 2023



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 March 2023 *Messenger* is **Monday, February 20th**. 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 their email address to me or to the office at office@fumcgreeley.org. Thank you.



New Year, New Homes for Two Deserving Habitat Families



A two-story duplex in the Mission Springs Habitat for Humanity development in Evans will be forever homes for two families. The dedication was postponed from the bitter cold weather in December to Thursday, January 12th. A large crowd of well-wishers joined the two families headed by single mothers. A front-page article from the *Greeley Tribune* about the dedication is posted on the Local and Global Concerns bulletin board in the hallway. It tells the stories of the families, refugees from Eritrea and the Sudan. Quilts from Sewing for Service were presented to seven children. Both women work at JBS. At the end of the ceremony, the CEO of the local JBS office presented Greeley-Weld Habitat with a check for \$2 million dollars to be used for the next Habitat development, Hope Springs.

Thank you for your continued support of Habitat for Humanity. We will be scheduling an opportunity for our church at a Build Day this spring. Watch for more information.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Thanks to everyone who selected a colorful prayer shawl as a gift to help a friend feel surrounded by God's love. There are still more prayer shawls available. Stop by Kathy's office and select one for a friend or family member. Please remember to add that person's name to the list in the small notebook.



Local and Global

The Local and Global Concerns Commission would like to thank the congregation for your generous Christmas offering. With the funds received, our group will continue to support missions in Greeley, Weld County and across the world. Thank you again for your contribution.

Donni Clark,
Chair, Local and Global

News from United Women in Faith

Welcome to our sisterhood. Connecting together as community leaders, justice champions, and brave changemakers, we are women with more than a cause. We are on a mission to boldly act and transform communities, and we hope you'll join us.

We just completed our pledge service and are looking forward to connecting together in the coming months.

If you haven't gotten your new membership book or a pledge card yet, they are waiting for you in the church office in the UWIF cupboard. You may turn in any pledge cards &/or money to Kathy in the office or to Marcia Walters, treasurer.

Mark your calendar for February 9th for our next meeting at 1:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. It's sweetheart month so be ready to come together in Faith, Hope & LOVE!

Marian Ruge did a presentation about our prayer shawl ministry during church and mentioned a pattern she has for knitting a prayer shawl. Donna Hettinger also has 2 books of prayer shawl knitting and crochet patterns. She will be happy to share any copy you would like.



United
Women
in Faith

Sincerely,
Donna Hettinger, secretary



Membership Activities Commission

Plan on joining us for "Fatter Wednesday" on **February 22nd** (Ash Wednesday). We will be hosting a Pancake Supper in the Fellowship Hall at 5:30 PM.

After pancakes, stay and join us for the Ash Wednesday Service. The worship service will begin at 6:30 PM.





We wish to thank everyone who brought chili for our Chili Cook-off on January 15th. We had a great turn-out and some wonderful chili! Congratulations to Bev Williams who won best chili.

Bev's Chili recipe

Ingredients:

- 2 15 oz cans Kuner's Hot Chili Beans (I've tried other brands, but Kuner's is what I prefer.)
- 1 15 oz can red kidney beans – drained and rinsed
- 1 15 oz can cannellini beans – drained and rinsed
- 1 15 oz can black beans
- 1 can original Rotel tomatoes
- 1 28 oz can whole tomatoes (I cut them up with my kitchen scissors)
- 1 onion chopped.
- 2 cloves garlic minced.
- 1 ½ lbs. lean ground beef
- 2 tablespoons Gebhardt's chili powder (I've tried others and Gebhardt's is the best)
- Salt and Pepper to taste

Brown ground beef with onion and garlic in Dutch oven. While browning add chili powder, salt and pepper. Then add all the other ingredients (I usually add the whole tomatoes first so I can cut them up in the pan.) Bring to a boil and then simmer on low for at least an hour. If you want thick soup, don't put the lid on, but I usually simmer with the lid on.



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 (i.e., travel size shampoo/conditioner and soaps, toothbrushes, 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 Blessing 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 Commission 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.

Liturgists Needed



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.

The 2023 Flower Chart

If you would like to have flowers placed on the altar in honor or memory of a loved one or special occasion, please sign-up on the flower calendar in the Sanctuary hallway. The cost of flowers is \$45, and the church will order them for you.



Altar Flowers



**ASH
WEDNESDAY**

Pancake supper at
5:30 pm in Fellowship Hall.
Ash Wednesday service to follow.