

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

People of God,

One of my favorite dates of the year is March 4. There are many reasons I like this date. The first and most obvious: it is fun to say march forth. It gives a sense of moving on to something. Second, this date is usually early in the Lenten season. Lent is a time of journeying. We may have a faith journey, or a spiritual discipline journey, preparing us for the cross and resurrection. In the early church, Lent was often a time of preparation for baptism or for those who had fallen away from the faith to make the trek back to Christ. Third, and finally, the lectionary readings during this time tell the story of Jesus moving towards conflict with the religious leaders, moving towards an arrest and trial, moving towards the cross. It is a story that Jesus roleplays for us moving towards what appears to be death, but is actually victory and life, towards resurrection.

Lent is a season that challenges us to follow Christ and march forth. It calls us to move. As we draw near to Christ this Lenten season and Christ moves us forward, the question is where we are going to march. Are we going to follow Christ, boldly marching forward to new life, to grace, to forgiveness, to hope and joy? Are we going to live in fear, not moving at all? Are we going to stand in the status quo, be stagnant, and watch life pass us by? Are we going to march backwards, looking over our shoulder, longing for yesteryear, clinging to a wish that we could turn back time?

It is my Lenten prayer that we all move towards Christ. I don't know where Christ is calling each and every one of us, but I know it is towards love. I know it will be risky, but it will lead to reconciliation. I know we have to be of great courage, but it leads to joy and hope. I know it can be frightening but it leads to resurrection. Easter people, may your Lenten journey lead you to resurrection and new life.

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

tgjansson@gmail.com

FUMC FINANCIALS

YEAR TO DATE EXPENSES: **January 2023**

Conference Apportionment	\$	500.00
Communication	\$	129.77
Personnel	\$	19,441.94
Education	\$	(123.29)
Caring and Evangelism	\$	0
Membership Activity	\$	0
Worship	\$	0
Board of Trustees	\$	8,101.49
Administration	\$	157.58
Finance	\$	71.87
Youth/College	\$	72.20
TOTAL EXPENSES: Jan. 2023	\$	28,351.56
GIFTS RECEIVED	\$	23,916.00
BUDGET BALANCE	\$	-2,774.99



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



MARCH
BIRTHDAYS

Help us celebrate the birthdays
of our church
members who are
80 years old or older.

Bruce Williams	3/01	80 yrs.
Barb Newton	3/04	92 yrs.
Dale Mikkelson	3/05	90 yrs.
Alberta Lutz	3/06	86 yrs.
Marilyn Hartley	3/10	85 yrs.
Sharon Paul	3/14	82 yrs.
Ed Stromberger	3/15	93 yrs.
Betty Baney	3/27	91 yrs.

MARCH



ANNIVERSARIES

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

Dick & Mary Cay Utterback	3/07	54 yrs.
Bill & Maria Conklin	3/17	50 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 April 2023 *Messenger* is **Monday, March 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.

Call to Nature Permaculture in Ghana



Donations for Easter and Christmas offerings are used by the Local and Global Commission to support many agencies. One of the **global** organizations receiving a donation is Call to Nature Permaculture in Ghana, West Africa. Permaculture is a farming method developed to be sustainable and self-sufficient. Call to Nature has developed a program that promotes school/community gardening to provide better nutrition. The group also saves and sells heirloom seeds, as well as providing hands-on training. Call to Nature supports child education and provides financial assistance to students, elderly people, people with disabilities, and single mothers to cover their emergency needs, such as lack of food, clothes, hygiene supplies, and access to potable drinking water.

Thanks to your generous donations at Christmas and Easter, First United Methodist Church is able to support Call to Nature and improve the lives of many people in Ghana by providing education, jobs and good food.

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.



News from United Women in Faith

We still have a few membership books that have not been claimed. If you haven't gotten yours yet, you may pick it up in the church office. If you aren't able to get into the office, please let Donna Hettinger or Kathy Trevino know so we can see that you get it.

The clothing bank could use extra help on the 2nd Monday of each month (our regular day is the 4th Monday). If you would like to help, just go when/if you can. Times are 9:30 am - 12 noon and 12 noon to 2:30 pm or whatever works for you during these times.

Meeting programs coming up are March - Passion Week Worship, April - Prayer and Self Denial, May - Response Moment, Prayer Calendar update.



United
Women
in Faith

Sincerely,
Donna Hettinger, secretary

SPPRC

The committee hit the ground running in late January. We have brought aboard 2 more members to the committee making a total of 6. We hope to establish a great communication line between the congregation, the staff and our committee. We have set a couple of goals that we've already begun working on and hope to have them completed by the end of summer and the end of the year. We have added 2 more sound techs and some volunteers to assist with the sound and broadcasting system when needed. Full steam ahead looking forward to the next 6 months.



Mark Your Calendars Now
Please don't miss the
Easter Egg Hunt on
Saturday, April 8th.

Easter Offering

The Local and Global Commission 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), and we have recently added the Blessing Box in the front of the church.

Special Easter offering envelopes will be placed in the backs of the pews by the end of March.

Thank you,
Donni Clark
970 330-5940

Kids Hope

Kids Hope ~ Walking Together in One-on-One Mentoring Relationships.

At Kid's Hope USA we believe that ALL kids matter to Jesus and that our church is uniquely called to care for children that would benefit from another caring, reliable relationship.

All it takes is one hour, once a week to meet with one special student right at the school! The friendship that transpires is both a joy and a blessing.

We currently have 6 mentors from our church, but we would really like more. The school has recently reached out about a second grader that would love to have a mentor. Does this sound like a ministry that you would like to be a part of?

Please see Kim Hilmes or Laurie Poeschl and we can visit more about Kid's Hope. Prayer partners are needed as well.

Thank you!

Membership Activities Commission

The Membership Activities Commission will be hosting our Annual "Green" Potluck on March 19th after the worship service. Please mark your calendars and join us for some St Patrick's Day shenanigans. Bring a "green" dish (not aged but in color) to share. Hope to see you there!

If you would like to join our commission (planning and hosting membership activities) please talk to Linda Kautz, Michele Roberts, Rod Poeschl, Donna Hettinger or Kathy Trevino.



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 non-perishable, "grab and go" foods (pull top cans) and snacks, small water bottles as well as hygiene items (i.e., travel size shampoo/conditioner and soaps, toothbrushes, wash cloths, deodorant, etc.).



The Local and Global Commission has adopted this project. They have reorganized the room across from the office as a "Missions Room". Donations can be left in the collection box in that room.



***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.

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.



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.

Easter Lily/Spring Flower Orders

The Local and Global Commission will be decorating the church again this year with spring plants and Easter Lilies. If you would like to honor or remember someone special on Palm or Easter Sunday, you may do so by contributing \$17.00 to help purchase the lilies or plants. Order forms will be in the church bulletin on the first 2 Sundays in March.

April Food Drive

Coming up...April is our Food Drive Month. While we will have boxes out collecting canned items such as tuna, fruit, veggies and peanut butter, monetary donations are also appreciated. By making monetary donations the Food Bank can use funds to purchase in bulk items that are needed. When writing a check for the food drive please make that out to FUMC and put Food Drive in the memo line.



**Daylight Saving Time
Turn your clocks
ahead one hour on
March 11.**