

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

Resurrected People,

In my first appointment I had the pleasure of ministering to an amazing middle-aged man. He didn't have the exuberance of youth anymore. In fact, his physical body had aged significantly more than his years. He had a lung disease, and his life-breathing organs were shutting down. He was in need of a lung transplant. I walked with him as one lung completely shut down. Every month, less and less of a percentage of his operating lung was still working. The weakness of the lungs started putting trauma on his heart and it started shutting down. With this new complication I asked him, "Are you done?" He would shake his head to indicate that he was not done. So, we waited and waited for that lung.

Months passed and his one lung was becoming less effective. He continued to struggle with heart issues, then his kidneys started having trouble. I would ask, "Are you done?" He would shake his head no. One by one, his other organs were having a harder time functioning as he could not get enough air. No matter what came, he was never done. When he was down to ten percent of one lung, the lung transplant call came in the middle of the night. This was not an easy decision. One doctor on the transplant team even said, "He is so weak, he will die on the table." But his name came up, and the transplant took place. Within a few weeks, he was walking the halls of the hospital and in a few months, he was back home. He was alive like I had never seen him. He was a reminder that, with resurrection, we are never done.

Nine months later, he caught pneumonia. As he laid in bed, barely able to speak, I asked again, "Are you done?" He shook his head and said, "It is done." He spoke to his family and some of his friends, but the last words to me were, "It is done." I am often reminded of Jesus' last words, "It is finished." Jesus didn't say, "I am finished", but "It is finished." Jesus and my friend knew, with a God of resurrection, we are never done. There is always a tomorrow.

How often do we flippantly say, "I am done with this,"? We may think we are done with an old car or a job. Maybe, in exasperation, we are done with a relationship, or with an ever-progressing disease. The Good News is even when we think we are done, the God of Resurrection is not done with us. Even when we are done in this life, God is still not done with us. May you go forth with the faith and hope in the God of Resurrection, trusting in all circumstances, we are most definitely *not* done.

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: March 2023

Conference Apportionment	\$	1,500.00
Communication	\$	1,192.20
Personnel	\$	59,026.08
Education	\$	53.58
Caring and Evangelism	\$	0
Membership Activity	\$	109.99
Worship	\$	0
Board of Trustees	\$	24,828.78
Administration	\$	1,893.81
Finance	\$	406.21
Youth/College	\$	160.20
Day Care	\$	438.00

TOTAL EXPENSES: March. 2023 \$ 89,608.85

GIFTS RECEIVED \$ 73,024.06

BUDGET BALANCE \$ -16,584.79



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.

Allen McConnell	5/05	82 yrs.
Carol McConnell	5/05	80 yrs.
David Pringle	5/13	82 yrs.
Gwen Quick	5/17	95 yrs.
Jody Scholfield	5/23	94 yrs.
Georgia Fitch	5/23	82 yrs.
Janice Sommerfeld	5/30	80 yrs.



Help us celebrate the anniversaries of our church members who have been married for 50 years or more.

Gene & Joan Hammer	5/16	59 years
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Our deepest sympathy to the family of:

Leona Bowker	3/24/2023
Betty Baney	4/10/2023

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.



The deadline for the June-August 2023 *Messenger* is **Monday, May 15**. 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.

Prayer Shawls

During the pandemic, our knitters and crocheters kept busy making prayer shawls. After Pastor Al stylishly modeled the many choices and colors of shawls during a church service in January, the demand for shawls to give to friends and family increased. Thank you to everyone who chose a prayer shawl and gifted it to someone who needed to feel God's love surround them.



Since then, we have received several prayer shawls and they have been placed in the Prayer Shawl Cupboard in Kathy's office. We can always use more so just drop off any completed shawls in the office and they will find their way to the cupboard.

There is a pattern for a basic knitted prayer shawl in the brochure rack in the hallway. Donna Hettinger has other patterns, or you can create your own. We have millions of miles of yarn in the Sewing for Service cupboard that can be used for a shawl.

Thank you for supporting the Prayer Shawl Ministry at FUMC.



News from United Women in Faith

Our May meeting program last year was celebrating and learning about Cinco de Mayo with Maria Conklin as hostess. But we had a very light attendance. Our meeting on Thursday, May 11th, this year will again have Maria Conklin as hostess and her program will again be Cinco de Mayo. Her presentation last year was wonderful & we would like more ladies to be a part of it. **PUT THIS MEETING ON YOUR CALENDAR!** That's **Thursday, May 11th, at 1:30 pm** in Fellowship Hall. We are looking forward to a good turnout.

June is our end of year potluck on Thursday June 8th. We need to be making plans: site?, attendance? Bring your thoughts and ideas to share to the May meeting.



United
Women
in Faith

Sincerely,
Donna Hettinger

Lenten Sermon Series

Prayer: Contemplation and Action

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
 hallowed by thy name;
 thy kingdom come; thy will be done
 on earth as it is heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread;
 and forgive us our trespasses
 as we forgive those who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the Kingdom, and the Power and
 the Glory forever.
 Amen

Children's Bedtime Prayer

Now I lay be down to sleep
 I pray the Lord my sole to keep.
 If I should die before I wake
 I pray the Lord my sole to take.
 Amen

Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
 Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
 Where there is injury, pardon;
 Where there is doubt, faith;
 Where there is despair, hope;
 Where there is darkness, light;
 Where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not
 so much seek
 To be consoled as to console,
 To be understood as to understand,
 To be loved as to love.
 For it is in giving that we receive,
 It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
 And it is in dying that we are born
 to eternal life.
 Amen

Wesleyan Covenant Prayer

I am no longer my own, but thine.
 Put me to what thou wilt,
 rank me with whom thou wilt.
 Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
 Let me be employed for thee
 or laid aside for thee,
 Exalted for thee or brought low for thee.
 Let me be full, let me be empty.
 Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
 I freely and heartily yield all things to thy
 pleasure and disposal.
 And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father,
 Son and Holy Spirit,
 thou art mine, and I am thine.
 So be it.
 And the covenant which I have made on
 earth,
 let it be ratified in heaven.
 Amen

The Serenity Prayer

God grant me the serenity
 to accept the things I cannot change;
 Courage to change the things I can;
 And wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time;
 Enjoying one moment at a time;
 Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace;
 Taking, as He did, this sinful world
 As it is, not as I would have it;
 Trusting that He will make all things right
 If I surrender to His Will;
 So that I may be reasonably happy in this life
 And supremely happy with Him
 Forever and ever in the next.
 Amen

Lead Me Prayer

By Thomas Merton

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going.
 I do not see the road ahead of me.
 I cannot know for certain where it will end.
 Nor do I really know myself,
 and the fact that I think I am following your will
 does not mean that I am actually doing so.
 But I believe that the desire to please you
 does in fact please you.
 And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.
 I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.
 And I know that, if I do this,
 You will lead me by the right road,
 though I may know nothing about it.
 Therefore I will trust you always
 though I may seem to be lost
 and in the shadow of death.
 I will not fear, for you are ever with me,
 And you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

Prayer of Saint Richard of Chichester

Thanks be to thee, my Lord Jesus Christ,
 for all the benefits thou hast given me,
 for all the pains and insults thou hast borne for me.
 O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,
 may I know thee more clearly,
 love thee more dearly,
 and follow thee more nearly, day by day.
 Amen

Prayer for Good Humor

By St. Thomas More

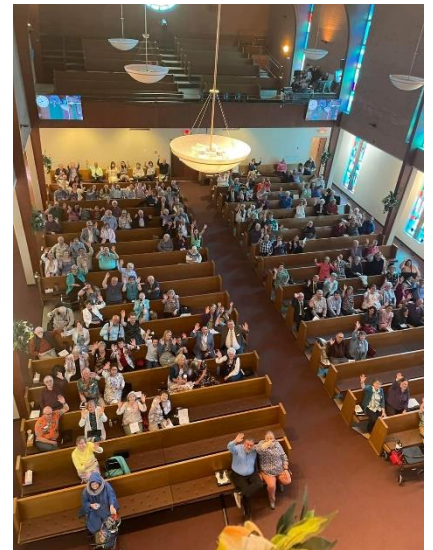
Grant me, O Lord, good digestion, and also something to digest.
 Grant me a healthy body, and the necessary good humor to maintain it.
 Grant me a simple soul that knows to treasure all that is good
 and that doesn't frighten easily
 at the sight of evil,
 but rather finds the means to put things back in their place.
 Give me a soul that knows not boredom, grumblings, sighs, and laments,
 nor excess of stress, because of that obstructing thing called "I".
 Grant me, O Lord, a sense of good humor.
 Allow me the grace to be able to take a joke to discover in life a bit of joy,
 And to be able to share it with others.



WOWZA....We had a Bunch of kiddos for the Easter Egg Hunt on April 8th. Even though this event doesn't last very long the excitement is HUGE!! Thanks to our Bunny, the Education Commission, all who donated eggs, candy, Pastor Al, Nikki, and all the Parents who brought their kiddos.



Pastor Al helped us realize some steps for becoming Resurrection people with dramatic illustration utilizing the lift. Our attention was highlighted within his words. We are grateful for his creative style of Christ's resurrection---CHRIST IS RISEN.



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.



Membership Activities Commission

Dust off your bonnets, hats, and caps. We will have a Hat Day on **May 14th** (Mother's Day). Wear your hat to church. We are also inviting anyone who wishes to bring a perennial plant/flower in memory of a loved one. Al will bless the plants and then they will be planted in our new garden area.

We are also planning some fun activities this summer that you will want to invite your friends and neighbors to join in! Stay tuned for exciting details!



Mission Room Donations

The Local and Global Commission has reorganized the room across from the office into a Mission Room where we store items for our outreach activities. We have coats, mittens, hats and scarves and blankets to offer to the needy. We also have the items we use to stock the red Blessing Box outside the east doors of the sanctuary. We can use grab and go items—crackers, fruit cups, meat items in pop top cans and items to make hygiene bags. The bags include a washcloth, soap, shampoo, lotion, toothpaste and a toothbrush. If you have any of these items or new socks, please leave them on the table inside the room. Cash donations are also accepted. Just put Blessing Box on the memo line. Thank you!



From Trustees

To have better livestreaming abilities the Trustees have decided to switch the church's internet and phone service to ALLO! Our goal is to have better coverage not only to stream services from the Sanctuary, but to also have connect ability throughout the majority of the church building. The church should be up and running with ALLO by the beginning of May, but we ask your patience as we work out any bumps in this transition.

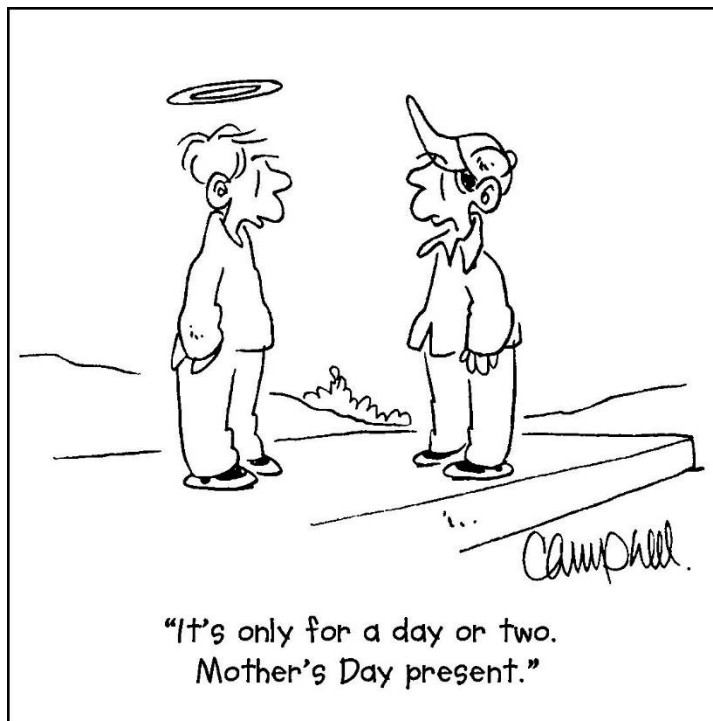
Bus Driver Needed

One of our drivers has resigned from his position, so that leaves us one driver short again. If you are interested in driving the bus on Sunday mornings, bringing members to worship, please call Kathy @ 970-353-5522. We try to have enough drivers, so you only drive once a month. If you would rather be a substitute driver, please let Kathy know that as well.

Life Line Screening



Life Line Screening will be here on **Monday, May 15th** in the Fellowship Hall. This organization provides screenings for Carotid Artery Disease, Atrial Fibrillation, Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm and Peripheral Arterial Disease. Appointments can be made online at LLSA.SOCIAL/HC or call 1-800-640-6307. You can pick up a pink flyer in the East Narthex for more information.





Upcoming Events

May 14th Hat Day