

2023

June

July

August



an amazingly beautiful spring at my house. My ornamental
ticularly gorgeous. On one day, I counted eight different birds
t colors of bright reds, yellows, and oranges were
whole spring would have been perfect, except for the

infestation of miller-moths. We had tens of thousands of them all over. They
were in the front door frame, garage, on the TV. I opened my shed and got
blasted in the face with moths flying out. I even opened the refrigerator and a
couple flew away. Ugh, I hate millers!

10:0

You could imagine my distaste when I came across an article titled,
“What is So Great About Miller-Moths.” I did break down and read the article.
Apparently, millers provide two important roles in the world. First, they are
great pollinators. Second, they are an important nutrition for birds. Maybe the
millers had something to do with why my tree bloomed so beautifully this
year. Possibly, they might have been the attraction for the amazing birds.
There is a chance that the millers played an important role in my beautiful
spring.

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I find this is how God works. God takes the ugly, dirty, brown,
annoying, flying yuck like millers, and brings something beautiful out of it.
Let us not forget how God brought grace into this world. God entered the
world through an unwed mother, escaped danger with his refugee family, was
raised by a poor carpenter, was rejected by his community, hung out with tax
collectors and prostitutes, rejected by religious authorities and governmental
leaders, beaten and crucified. Not a pretty picture, but out of that, came
amazing grace. He lived out Psalm 118 that says, “the stone the builders
rejected has become the building stone.”

Life is not always pretty, but often that is when God shines.
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: **April 2023**

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|----|-------------------|
| Conference Apportionment | \$ | 2,000.00 |
| Communication | \$ | 1,261.97 |
| Personnel | \$ | 80,848.92 |
| Education | \$ | 50.03 |
| Caring and Evangelism | \$ | 0 |
| Membership Activity | \$ | 109.99 |
| Worship | \$ | 0 |
| Board of Trustees | \$ | 32,276.21 |
| Administration | \$ | 3,029.76 |
| Finance | \$ | 572.95 |
| Youth/College | \$ | 133.20 |
| Day Care | \$ | 438.00 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES: April 2023 | \$ | 120,721.03 |
| GIFTS RECEIVED | \$ | 73,024.06 |
| BUDGET BALANCE | \$ | -14,223.85 |



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 and those married 50 years or more.



June:

| | | |
|---------------|------|---------|
| Lonnie Eakle | 6/02 | 82 yrs. |
| Brenda Grube | 6/11 | 81 yrs. |
| Ramona Stotts | 6/14 | 91 yrs. |

July:

| | | |
|----------------|------|---------|
| Mickey Schmidt | 7/01 | 89 yrs. |
| Nancy Robinson | 7/06 | 81 yrs. |
| Anne Schenkman | 7/07 | 93 yrs. |
| Irene Long | 7/14 | 91 yrs. |
| Jean Wilson | 7/24 | 86 yrs. |
| Donna Kral | 7/28 | 80 yrs. |

August:

| | | |
|------------------|------|---------|
| Bob Johnson | 8/01 | 80 yrs. |
| Darlene Schwartz | 8/06 | 93 yrs. |
| Ellie Johns | 8/08 | 85 yrs. |
| Maxine Bracken | 8/14 | 89 yrs. |
| Joe Warmbrod | 8/19 | 90 yrs. |
| Sally Bauer | 8/30 | 80 yrs. |

June:

| | | |
|-------------------------|------|----------|
| Gary & Maxine Bracken | 6/04 | 69 years |
| Robert & Alice Chapman | 6/06 | 52 years |
| Jerry & Dorothy Benner | 6/07 | 64 years |
| Charles & Donna Johnson | 6/11 | 51 years |
| John & Donni Clark | 6/17 | 50 years |
| Lonnie & Terry Eakle | 6/20 | 64 years |
| Sam & Lynne Suppes | 6/22 | 50 years |
| Bob & Jill Johnson | 6/24 | 50 years |
| Lester & Sue Kropf | 6/29 | 66 years |

July:

| | | |
|-----------------------|------|----------|
| David & Doris Biehl | 7/16 | 56 years |
| Gary & Sally Hoff | 7/27 | 55 years |
| John & Susan Townsend | 7/28 | 50 years |

August:

| | | |
|-------------------------|------|----------|
| Allen & Carol McConnell | 8/25 | 60 years |
| Leon & Brenda Grube | 8/28 | 63 years |

Our deepest sympathy to the families of:



| | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| June Roukema | February 20, 2023 |
| Don Zaggle | May 15, 2023 |
| Naomi Kauffman | Week of May 15th |

Worship Service Attendance

Knowing you are here is important to us. There are two 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 September 2023 *Messenger* is **Monday, August 21st**. 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.

Church Office Hours Changing

Due to budget cuts, the church office hours are changing. Beginning **June 1, 2023**, Kathy will be in the office Monday-Thursday from 8am to 12 noon. Please note these changes in case you need to come to the church during the week. Thank You.

Vacation Bible School!
G-Force-God's Love in Action
June 5th-8th
5:00-5:30pm Dinner
5:30-7:00pm Program

To register a participant or to sign up as a volunteer go to:
<https://vbsmate.com/FUMCGreeley>



Keep an eye for our 'needs' bulletin board to help in other ways!



Sewing for Service to Receive Honor

This year's Community Volunteer of the Year award from Greeley-Weld Habitat for Humanity will be presented to the Sewing for Service group of First United Methodist Church for their quilt donations. Every child receives a warm, colorful comforter/quilt from Sewing for Service at the dedication of their forever home. There has been a Greeley-Weld Habitat for Humanity affiliate for 35 years and nearly 200 homes have been constructed during that time. That equals a lot of quilts!!

The award will be given at the Annual Breakfast on **Thursday, July 20, 2023**, at Christ Community Church, 1301 15th Street from 6:45 to 8:15 a.m. It would be **wonderful** to have a lot of FUMC members at the breakfast to help celebrate. Let Marian Ruge or Brenda Grube know if you plan to attend.

Every year, Greeley-Weld Habitat for Humanity hosts its signature fundraising breakfast in July with Dick Monfort, CEO and owner of the Colorado Rockies as the featured speaker. Dick Monfort will match donations up to \$100,000, automatically doubling your donation. In the last six years, the annual breakfast has helped raise \$1,000,000.00, providing a dream come true and building equity for many local families in need of an opportunity to become homeowners.

Build Day - Saturday, September 23, 2023

If you aren't a sewer or a quilter, you can still help Habitat for Humanity. Our church will have a Build Day at the Mission Springs site in Evans on Saturday, September 23rd. We will need worker-bees, as well as a team to provide lunch. The workday is from 8 am to 3 pm. Signup sheets and other information will be available closer to the date.

Habitat Exhibit at the Greeley History Museum

To celebrate the 35 years of building in Weld County, Habitat for Humanity has collaborated with the Greeley History Museum to create a year-long display at the museum, opening in the middle of June. FUMC has been involved with Habitat since the very beginning.

The Greeley History Museum is located at 714 8th Street. It is open Thursday through Saturday, 10 am to 4 pm. There is an entry fee, but the High Plains Library District has Experience Passes for many local museums. If you have a library card, the passes can be reserved ahead of time.

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



United
Women
in Faith

United Women in Faith met in Fellowship Hall on May 11 for a special Cinco de Mayo program presented by Maria Conklin. Marcia Walters, Dee Kratochvil and Donna Bartlett assisted Maria on a fun filled educational afternoon.

Eighteen members gathered for this special presentation and party, complete with decorations, for a festive atmosphere. Goodies to eat included homemade tamales, salsa (Maria) and a Tres Leche cake.

Mary Cay Utterback reminded us of the reading program. Books are available in the parlor along with the criteria. Another reminder: pledges are to be given to our treasurer, Marcia Walters.

Our next meeting is a potluck at **5:30, June 8**, in the home of Ulafay Fry, 2618 Buena Vista Drive. We will not be meeting the rest of the summer and will resume meeting in September. More details later.

Dee Kratochvil



Local and Global

The Local and Global Commission would like to thank everyone who contributed to our successful April Food Drive. Our congregation contributed \$670 and 145 pounds of food. Peanut butter was approximately 45 of the total 145 pounds. Our second food drive of the year will be in October.

This Food Drive shows how compassionate and giving our congregation is!!

The Local and Global Commission would like to thank the congregation for their generous Easter offering. We have fulfilled the pledges we made to nonprofits for 2023 and have additional funds. The group discussed what we should do. 2023 has been a frustrating year for everyone as the cost of everything has increased, especially heat bills. The heating bills for the church were \$3,754.57 in January, \$3,060.08 in February and \$2,900.11 for March. The Trustees have done everything they can to reduce costs wherever possible. These high bills have led to a deficit in our operating budget for the church. After discussion, Local and Global decided to help care for our church home and contribute \$2,000 to the deficit in the operating account. We would like to encourage everyone to contribute a little extra if possible.

Again, thank you so much for your contributions.

Local and Global Commission

SPRC

Just who is the Staff Parish Relations Committee and what do they do?

Our task is in our name "Build Relationships". We are kind of like the Human Relations (HR) of the church. In every congregation the SPRC must focus on building strong relationships between the staff and the congregation and between the congregation and the District Superintendent (DS). Building relationships and handling administrative tasks can be challenging so the committee is crucial to a vital and effective congregation.

We have directed suggestions for managing our responsibilities, with assigned tasks for each quarter of the calendar year. The United Methodist Church gives the SPRC the responsibility for administering the relationship between the Staff, Congregation, and the DS so that the church can keep moving forward.

These past 5 months we have been completing staff, Pastor and our SPR committee annual evaluations. We have written new evaluation policy guidelines which are more Objective and less Subjective for our employees. This is just part of what we are working on. One of our goals is to get through the employee handbook by the end of the year, updating items that have changed or need to change as our church has changed. We are reviewing, writing as

needed, all of the job descriptions that are in the appendices of the handbook. Interviewing and hiring is a continual process at times, and we have been working with Daniel and Travis these past 5 months and will continue to work with them as Travis returns from sabbatical and Daniel moves on to greater paths ahead for him after graduation.

To do our tasks well, we need and encourage the support and input from all of our congregation members. Evaluations need to come from all areas of the church and not just a select few. We want to hear from all of you when things are going well and when things may not seem to be going as well as you might think they should be going.

We meet regularly, as stated earlier, in closed session at least once a quarter and any or many other times as needed. Our administrative function of the SPRC includes *Leadership and Management, keeping an eye on the big picture and daily activities*. We are a diverse group of 7, which were elected and appointed to the committee at this time, including as required, a lay-member of the annual conference and a lay-leader of the church. We hope to bring you more in the quarters to come of our duties and actions that have taken place. Thank you for taking time to read this and we look forward to hear more from all of you.

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

Mark your calendars. You don't want to miss these activities! The Membership Activities Commission has planned some fun things for this summer.

June: We will honor Dads on **June 18th** with a presentation of the "World's Largest Banana Split". Join us after worship, grab a spoon and take a bite out of this amazing wonder!

July: Join us for the Fourth of July Parade. We will have a shade set up. We are also planning on providing a water/snack station. If you would like to donate water bottles, you can leave those in the office. Also, if you can't make it down to the parade, our Tech Team will be live streaming it on our Facebook page. (How exciting is that!)

August: "Blast From the Past" Sunday. On **August 13th**, plan to stay after worship for a Tie-Dying Party. We are still working out the details and will share those soon!



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!

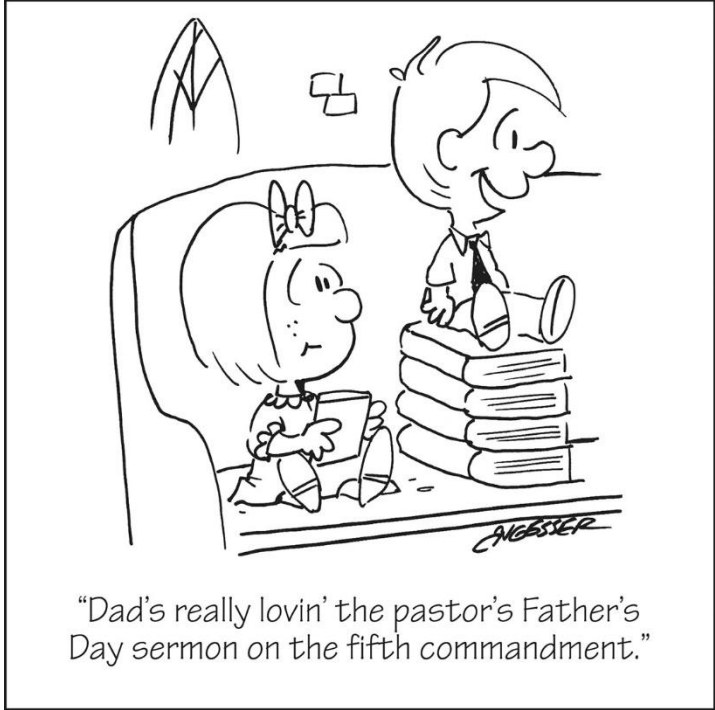


From Trustees

Our new coffee bar is up and running! We will be making some additions to that area in the future. We are still waiting for ALLO to finish connecting our new internet, which should be coming soon. Plans for our Lucky Duckling Day Care are moving forward. New paint and flooring are in place and inspections are being done. We would like to thank everyone who helped during our April and May workdays.

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.



Join us at
Vacation Bible
School!

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G-Force-God's Love in Action
June 5th-8th
5:00-5:30pm Dinner
5:30-7:00pm Program