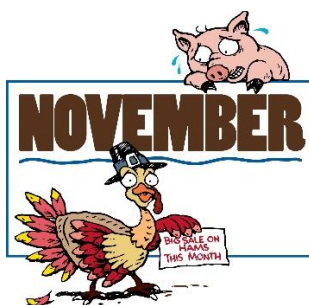


# 2023



## Celebration Time

10:00 AM Sundays

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

### **Website:**

[www.fumcgreeley.org](http://www.fumcgreeley.org)

### **Email:**

[office@fumcgreeley.org](mailto:office@fumcgreeley.org)

### Pastor's Letter,

I love chicken noodle soup. I must admit that I am a traditionalist when it comes to my chicken noodle soup. Just the basics are all I need: chicken, chicken broth, egg noodles, celery, carrots, and maybe a little salt and pepper. I might even enjoy a little garlic in my soup on the days I am feeling kind of wild. What can I say? I like the delicious simplicity of traditional chicken soup. Lately, when I've been served chicken soup, I have discovered that other people are trying new things to doctor it up.

The first changes I noticed were in the noodles. I have seen egg noodles replaced by angel hair spaghetti. I even have seen people use ramen noodles in place of my beloved, fat, fluffy egg noodles. The most notable noodle replacement I have seen is using barley in place of the pasta. After they messed with my noodles, they came after the veggies. In the name of using "seasonal" vegetables they started adding tomatoes and squash. Another change was spicing it up. One person spiced it up with a North African chili paste called Harissa. I have been served chicken noodle soup spiced with turmeric. People have added coconut milk or made Mexican chicken noodle soup with corn and tortilla chips. I have even tasted some with canned stewed tomatoes.

All these twists were different. I liked some, and some I didn't care for. However, I could see how all these soups were chicken noodle soup. Then came the outlier. The one soup they claimed was chicken noodle soup, I will forever argue it wasn't. Veggie Thai Curry Soup is NOT Chicken Noodle Soup. That's right, I said it. Although, a delicious soup on its own, it is still not chicken noodle soup.

I believe this is kind of how life works. We get used to our routine, maybe fall into a rut. We know how life goes; we get comfortable with how things are. We get used to our life and someone changes the recipe on us. Maybe we have children, or get a big promotion, move to another city. Becoming an empty-nester or retiring can be a pretty big change. Some changes we don't care for, like losing our parents or a spouse. We might get an unpleasant diagnosis. Moving into assisted living can be an unwanted change. Change throughout life is just a fact. Some are good, some just are, and some are not fun at all.

But here is the Good News about all those unexpected changes in life. Jesus promised that God will never leave or abandon us, God will not leave us as orphans. It is with this ever presence of God that we can have the confidence to face all our joys with a certainty of God's grace and all our struggles with a certainty of God's nearness. It allows us to live unafraid.

As the days grow cooler and you find yourself in soup season, enjoy a cup of hot, steamy traditional chicken noodle soup, but don't be afraid to try something new while you're at it. You might just like it!

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  
Accompanist

### **Hailey Zaggle**

Director  
Lucky Duckling  
Daycare

### **Evan Messmer**

### **Laras Prasetya**

### **William Zaggle**

Sound and Media

### **Erika Vasquez**

Custodian

### **John Hull**

Security

### **Ginger Jansson**

Newsletter Editor  
tgjansson@gmail.com

## **Stewardship Sermon Series**

What does it mean to invest in the things that have real meaning and purpose? How can we as Christians participate in the work of God to bring life and love to the people around us? These are some of the questions we will be addressing in this year's Stewardship Sermon Series, *Investing In Life*. Come join us for this series October 29 – November 12. On November 19 we will wrap the series up on Consecration Sunday, with special speakers, music, food, and fun as we celebrate the Gifts we give back to the Lord.



## **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 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

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	89 yrs.
Willard Johnson	11/10	104 yrs.
Julie Haworth	11/13	85 yrs.
Marian Ruge	11/19	80 yrs.
Richard Peterson	11/27	94 yrs.

### 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 December 2023 *Messenger* is **Monday, November 13<sup>th</sup>**. Articles can be emailed to Ginger Jansson at [tgjansson@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:office@fumcgreeley.org). Thank you.

### Church Directory



We are so excited about the turn out with people taking pictures for the directory. We will be set up in the Parlor one more Sunday, **November 5<sup>th</sup>**, before and after the worship service. If you haven't had your picture taken, please stop by so your picture can be included in the directory. No appointments. No sales. Once the books are put together, they will be available for a small donation of \$5.00 to help offset the cost of printing. The deadline to submit your own photo is November 5<sup>th</sup> as well. Those photos may be sent to Kathy at [office@fumcgreeley.org](mailto:office@fumcgreeley.org). Contact Kathy with questions or for more information.

### 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.



## Sewing for Service Quilt Sale - November 19<sup>th</sup>



Lots of **great things** will be happening at church on **Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>**. 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 2023 Sewing for Service has already donated 81 quilts to veterans, children in new Habitat homes, the Department of Human Services and the Greeley Family House. Don't worry! We saved the most beautiful ones for you!! Cold winter weather is coming; maybe you or someone you know needs a warm blanket. Most of the quilts will be twin size, but we also have several colorful quilts for children and flannel baby blankets for wee ones. Gerry Bertelsen's family donated one of her large hand quilted quilts. It will be priced at \$600, but the prices for the tied comforters that we make range from \$10 for a baby quilt to \$100 for a full-size one. Bargains galore!!

We have received several donations of completed quilts, fabric and batting this year, so we have even more colorful and creative designs. The proceeds from the sale pay for batting, thread and repairs to keep the sewing machines humming. If you won't be in church on November 19<sup>th</sup>, you can also shop for a quilt any Wednesday afternoon and watch us at work.

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. Also, yards of fabric that can be made into a design of your choice. 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.

## News from United Women in Faith



United  
Women  
in Faith

Did you know our church has an AED located on the wall outside the office? The October United Women in Faith meeting on *Prayers of Jesus and Gods Power to Heal* gave us a lesson on CPR, using the AED, and assisting someone choking. The program was presented by Mary Elizabeth Hagen, American Red Cross and Heart Association Instructor and a member of UWIF. If there is anyone interested in getting together as a group or alone, and would like to have Mary Elizabeth demonstrate CPR basics and applying an AED, you may contact her at [nocofirstaid@gmail.com](mailto:nocofirstaid@gmail.com) or 970-381-7424.

Coming up on **November 9<sup>th</sup>** the UWIF program will be *World Thank Offering*. We will learn about our sisters in faith around the world whom we help support.

Watch for our upcoming **December 14<sup>th</sup>** Christmas celebration plans announcement.

Donna Hettinger,  
Secretary

## Local and Global

**The mission of Local and Global Concerns is to provide church members the opportunity to improve the lives of the underserved Locally and Globally.** We would love to have you join our group or participate in any of the following activities:

Local and Global has a variety of activities that we hope you will find of interest and join us:

We are finishing up our **Fall Food Drive**. You can donate nonperishable food or write a check to help purchase food items. Make the check payable to FUMC and put Food Bank in the memo line.

**Backpacks** will be on **November 6<sup>th</sup>** at the Weld Food Bank from 9am to 11am. You can register online or just show up as plenty of help is always needed.

Our next meeting will be **November 9<sup>th</sup>** at Aunt Helen's Coffeeshop at 11:30am. After lunch we will walk over to the Greeley Museum to check out the Habitat for Humanity display.

**Advent activities** include the **Angel Tree** gift tags for the Salvation Army. They will be available in the east Narthex the Sunday before Thanksgiving. **All church sanctuary decorating** for the holidays will happen on **November 26<sup>th</sup>** right after church. Please stay and help us make the sanctuary festive. It shouldn't take long with lots of helping hands. There will be a **sock tree** to collect socks for the homeless in our community. Please bring a couple of pairs and hang them on the tree. We will add the socks to the hygiene bags we currently put together. We are considering ways to support the **Lucky Duckling Daycare** that is housed in our church.

We continue to fill the **Blessing Box** with non-perishable food and hygiene bags. We always need canned items with pop tops lids, fruit cups, crackers and personal hygiene items (soap, wash cloths, shampoo, toothbrushes and combs). Please drop off your donations in the Mission Room across from the office.

Thanks,

*Donni Clark*

970-330-5940 or [jdclark1@live.com](mailto:jdclark1@live.com)



## From Trustees

A landscaping cleanup was held on September 30th. We cleaned flower beds, trimmed hedges, removed dead tree limbs and the brick walkway in the Rose Garden. It is now weed free. Thanks to Pastor Al, William Zaggle, Marcia and John Hull, Donni Clark and David Pringle for all their hard work. We would like to give a special shout out to David. He has weeded the Mother's Day garden and the Rose Garden all summer. He has cleaned up around the bushes on the east side so everything is ready for fabric and rock. Many of us use the west entrance so we don't see how nice the east side looks. Please take a minute to check out the east side and see the much-needed improvements.

## Holiday Angel Tree

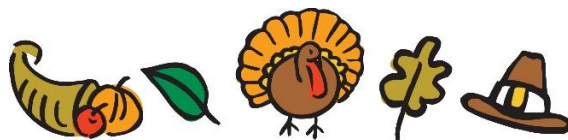


The holidays are quickly approaching, and our church is once again partnering with the Salvation Army to provide gifts for local children. The Angel Tree with tags will be available in the east narthex on **Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>**. Tags will include a child's name, age, clothing sizes and toy suggestions. Follow the instructions on the tag to sign up for a child. Your unwrapped gifts are due to the church office no later than **Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>**.

Please know that your gifts will go directly to the child listed on the tag. You are asked not to wrap your gifts before returning to the church by December 3<sup>th</sup> as the Salvation Army has volunteers that will help with wrapping. In addition, you do not need to fulfill all requests listed on the tag as the Salvation Army will supplement the gifts as needed.

And for those who would like to participate in this holiday project but are unable to shop, we have elves that will assist you. Contact Linda Moody (303-847-1964) or Michele Roberts (970-531-0792) for more information no later than November 26<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.



SO MANY BLESSINGS

## PRAYER CHAIN MINISTRY

When believing people pray, great things can happen. Do you realize that every time you pray for someone, you are opening a door for God to do something in their lives? This is exactly what our prayer chain ministry believes.

We have three prayer chains who respond to prayer requests made to the church by phone, in person or to any of our prayer chain members. However, we do need permission from the family to be able to put someone on a prayer request.

The best part for those serving in this ministry is being able to pray in the privacy and convenience of our homes. Requests are passed along on the phone and kept in confidence.

New members are always welcome. If you are interested and have questions, please contact me (Dee Kratochvil) at 970-356-3644. Our present leaders are Georgia Fitch, Carol McConnell and Dee.

Thank you to the following members who now serve in this worthwhile ministry:

Julie Haworth, Beth Hyde, Marcia Shafer, Sharon Voightmann, Judy Linn, MaryCay Utterback, Connie Long, RuthMary Lyons, Mary Scheel and Linda Kautz.

*PHILIPPIANS 4:6 Do not worry about anything, but pray and ask God for everything you need, always giving thanks.*

*Dee Kratochvil*

## Party People Plans!



It's time for some fun and fellowship. The Party People would like to encourage the congregation to mark your calendars for the following events:

First United Methodist Church will be hosting the Greeley Philharmonic Orchestra for a Veterans Concert on **Saturday, November 11th**. The concert, *Salute to Service Brass*, will be held in the sanctuary at 7PM. Contact the Philharmonic at 970-356-6406 for ticket information.

Join us on **November 19th** for our Annual Church-wide Thanksgiving Meal. Turkey, dressing and all the fixings will be served. Please sign up by **November 12th** if you plan on coming. There are many opportunities to help. 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.

You are invited to stay after church on **November 26th** to decorate the sanctuary and narthexes for Advent. We hope both young and young-at-heart will make plans to help.

On **December 3rd and 9th** we will be warming up the Bus and doing *The Holiday Lane Drive* at Island Grove Regional Park. We will meet at the church at 5:30, spend about an hour looking at the light displays and then come back to the church for cookies and hot chocolate.

## Backpacks for Kids

The Weld Food Bank *Backpacks for Kids* program has started up again for the school year. Our church fills backpacks on the first Monday of each month. Our next time to go to the food bank is **Monday, November 6<sup>th</sup>**. We meet at the Weld Food Bank at 9AM. The food bank encourages everyone who volunteers to register online if you can. If you have issues, please call them at 970-356-2199, ext. 307. Please contact Vicki Bottenberg for any questions or for more information. Thank you.



Pray for Our Students

## Music Ministry

### Highlight on Music Ministers (Choristers)



Hi! My name is Marcia Walters and I have been part of the First United Methodist church choir for around 25 years. I started singing in my small NE church when I was young with my sister and cousin, sang in high school choirs and 4-H state choir singing harmony/barbershop music.

I love singing with this group. We have a great friendship. We get together socially before the singing season and after. We take summers off. We also go down and sit with our families after we sing, which I do love. We are few right now, but we are sticking it out with people gone here and there.

We would love for you to come sing with us! We meet on Thursday nights at 7:00 and practice for about an hour or less. On Sunday mornings, we meet at 9:00 to go over the music and church is at 10:00.

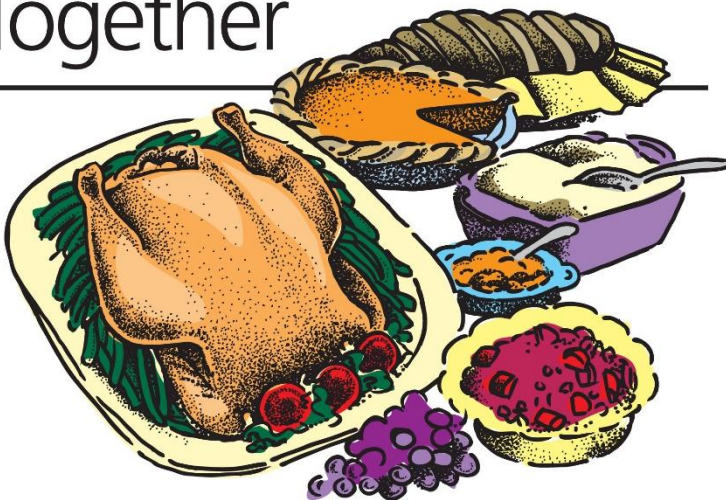
Please stop and ask us any questions you may have. Hope to see you soon.

*Marcia Walters*



We Gather  
Together

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**November 19<sup>th</sup>**  
Church-wide  
Thanksgiving Dinner  
**November 26<sup>th</sup>**  
Decorate sanctuary  
and narthexes