

# 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)

Family of God,

We are entering the month of October. October comes from the Latin root word *Octo* meaning eight. What better way to honor the tenth month of the year by calling eight? October first received this name in the early Roman Calendar. It was a lunar calendar, with 10 months. October was the eighth month in the Roman calendar. When the Romans switched to a solar 12-month calendar, October became the tenth month of the year. However, the name had already stuck. So now October has a name that doesn’t reflect the true essence of the month.

This leads me to wonder if the name Christian is a true reflection of the nature of followers of Jesus. The term Christian comes from the Greek word *Christianos* meaning “Follower of Christ”. It also has an adjectival ending borrowed from Latin denoting “belonging to”, as in slave ownership. Literally, the name means we follow Jesus in a way only as a slave to Jesus would.

The term “follower of Christ” depicts an action, of stepping in the footsteps of Jesus. To do the things Jesus did. Too often, the church loses its way by identifying Christians according to their belief system. Are they orthodox? Do they have correct thinking? When we determine a person’s worthiness of the title Christian by their belief system, we create an exclusive group. Jesus was all about bringing in the outsider, the forgotten, or looked down upon. Jesus was creating an inclusive society, where all can become whole with the love of God. I don’t believe orthodoxy is an effective way to determine whether a person can call themselves a Christian.

An alternative way would be to see Christians through the lens of orthopraxy: the correct practice of following Jesus. The question really is: Are we following Christ? Christians put their full trust in Jesus and in the grace of God, and then reflect that grace to the world. I see Christians following Christ when we extend mercy, forgive unceasingly, and share the Grace of God. We most closely follow Jesus when we mend the brokenhearted, feed the hungry, help them to see their value again, and bring the dead in spirit back to life. We are one with Christ, one with the world, and one with each other when our actions spring forth joy, when love wins, when peace prospers, and when hope flows like a mighty river.

I pray for us all, that our words and actions fit the name Christian. May our footsteps follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Amen.

Let it be so,  
*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**

**Bernadetha Prasetya**

### **William Zaggle**

Sound and Media

### **Erika Vasquez**

Custodian

### **John Hull**

Security

### **Ginger Jansson**

Newsletter Editor  
tgjansson@gmail.com

## **FUMC FINANCIALS**

### **YEAR TO DATE EXPENSES: Aug 2023**

Conference Apportionment	\$	3,500.00
Communication	\$	2,197.09
Personnel	\$	148,883.94
Education	\$	55.95
Caring and Evangelism	\$	0
Membership Activity	\$	644.62
Worship	\$	41.95
Board of Trustees	\$	51,402.40
Administration	\$	4,389.39
Finance	\$	867.13
Youth/College	\$	285.70
Day Care	\$	16,678.59
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES: Aug 2023</b>	\$	<b>228,919.76</b>
<b>GIFTS RECEIVED</b>	\$	<b>217,705.91</b>
<b>BUDGET BALANCE</b>	\$	<b>-11,213.85</b>



## **Thank You!**

We would like to thank everyone for their continued financial support of our church. Over the past several months, some have given additional contributions, which are very much appreciated.

## **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.

## OCTOBER



Darwin Guinn	10/05	94 yrs.
Jean Eklund	10/07	89 yrs.
Joan Johnston	10/18	92 yrs.
Dee Kratochvil	10/25	86 yrs.
Mary Scheel	10/29	91 yrs.
Terry Eakle	10/30	84 yrs.

Our deepest sympathy to the family of:



Joanne Tarman	September 10, 2023
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### 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 November 2023 *Messenger* is **Monday, October 16<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.

## **Habitat for Humanity 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 special display at the museum. It opened in July. The exhibit features one of the quilts from Sewing for Service. Mannikins model several distinctive Habitat T-shirts. A map shows where Habitat is at work in the world. A short video shares the history of the Greeley-Weld Habitat affiliate. Another display includes traditional clothing and heirlooms from Habitat families. Plus, a scrapbook of newspaper articles and many photos. It's worth a visit!

Other exhibits in the museum are about the history of the Greeley area, including Rattlesnake Kate's snakeskin dress, shoes, belt and necklace of rattles. The newest exhibit features Delores Huerta, an activist and leader in the farm workers movement.

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



**THANKS to everyone who helped with the Habitat Build Day. Well done! Workers and Lunch Crew.**

## **Sewing for Service Honored at the Habitat for Humanity Breakfast**

Greeley-Weld Habitat for Humanity  
First United Methodist Church Sewing for Service  
2023 Community Volunteer of the Year

This beautiful sculpture of a hummingbird and flower was presented to Sewing for Service in July at the annual Habitat for Humanity Breakfast in July. It was created by Manny Loya, Construction Supervisor at Habitat for Humanity. Check it out on the window sill in Fellowship Hall.

### **Work Starts at Hope Springs**

Bulldozers and earth moving equipment are at work at the newest Habitat development, Hope Springs, located on 32<sup>nd</sup> Street, behind the Walmart on 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. This will be the largest Habitat for Humanity community in Colorado, providing homes for 491 families. There will be apartments, plus 154 paired houses, 22 single family homes, a playground, frisbee golf, soccer field and other amenities.



## News from United Women in Faith



United  
Women  
in Faith

The next Women in Faith meeting is coming up on **Thursday, October 12th**. Ulafay Fry & MaryCay Utterback will be surprising us with a program of which is TBD. The November meeting is on the yearly World Thank offering by Dee Kratochvil. Hope to see you there. Invite a friend!

Sincerely,  
Donna Hettinger

## From The Education Commission



This committee works to provide Sunday School for our young people. We work together for curriculum, activities, and study components for the congregation. Our staff person, Nikki Barrios, generates lessons for each Sunday. She works with the parents and Pastor Al to provide support in the teaching of Biblical lessons and activities for continued interest.

At present, the Pumpkin Patch experience is scheduled for **October 22nd**, at 1:00pm, to go to Milliken. We are planning *Trunk-Or-Treat* for **October 29th** in the church parking lot after the worship service. (Please participate with a costume, trunk decorated, and candy treats). There will be a Christmas program done by the kids on **December 10th** during worship. The annual Easter Egg Hunt is planned for March 30th in Lincoln Park. Our Church Vacation Bible School is tentatively set for the week of June 3-6.

Our group also encourages Adult Bible Study. The Monday night group has started meeting again at 6:30pm on Monday evenings. Please see Linda Kautz for details. Plans are beginning for the Wednesday morning group to start. Please see Connie Long for details on this group. Pastor Al is also preparing another study for the congregation once a month, after the worship service. Please watch for the dates in the bulletin.

We could use a couple more members for this group. Please let Pastor Al know if you might like to serve on this commission. One of our other tasks is to guide the process of the McNulty Scholarship Applications. We have a good time and are open to some new ideas.

## 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:

Activities for Local and Global have picked up since our summer hiatus.

We will be doing **Back Packs** on **October 2** at the Food Bank. You can register online or just show up at 9am. We are done at 11am.

**Kids Hope Mentors** are back in the school to assist students who need a little extra attention. If you are interested, please contact Kim Hilmes or Laurie Poeschel.

Our **fall food drive** for the Weld Food Bank will be held in the month of October. You can donate food or write a check to help purchase food items.

We continue filling the **Blessing Box** outside the east Narthex doors. We always need canned items with a pop top lid, fruit cups and personal hygiene items (soap, wash clothes, shampoo, toothbrushes and combs). We will begin putting out gloves, blankets and socks as the weather cools.

**November 9<sup>th</sup> will be our next meeting.** We will meet at Aunt Helen's Coffee shop at 11:30am for our lunch and business meeting. We will then walk over to the Greeley Museum to check out the Habitat display. Please join us for the meeting to learn more about what we do.

**Angel Tree** gift tags for the Salvation Army gifts will be on the tree in the east Narthex the Sunday before Thanksgiving.

**Decorating the sanctuary** for the holidays will happen December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10am with a soup lunch afterwards. This is an all-church opportunity, so we look forward to your assistance in this project, especially if decorating is "your thing"!

If you have questions, please contact Donni Clark at 970 330-5940 or [jdclark1@live.com](mailto:jdclark1@live.com).

Thanks,

*Donni Clark*

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



October is our second Weld Food Bank drive for 2023. FUMC is known as the "peanut butter church" and we had a lot of peanut butter from our April drive, around 42 pounds!! Donations to the Food Bank will be accepted during October. Needed items include canned meat, canned vegetables and fruit, peanut butter or other protein items. If you prefer, you can write a check made out to FUMC with "Food Drive" in the memo line. With their volume buying, the Food Bank can get more "bang for the buck".

So, please donate to our fall drive as there is a lot of need in Weld County. Thank 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.



## **From Trustees**

This summer our church hosted yet another successful Eagle Project, helping a Boy Scout finish the final hurdle to gaining his Eagle Scout award. Joel from Troop 809 had his name given to the Trustees by Kevin Hilmes and asked if we could come up with any work that needed doing around the building. Joel's project for the church was polishing the brass door inserts on the back wall of the east narthex as well as the green marble surrounding the exterior doors. He also created a plaque explaining the history of the door inserts that was placed on the narthex wall next to one of the inserts for all to read. The Trustees thank Joel for his hard work and wish him well on finishing his Eagle Scout Award.

- *Travis Andersen*

Also, The Trustees will be holding a leaf clean-up day towards the end of October or beginning of November. The exact date will be announced soon. Thank you to the Trustees (and their helpers) who kept the church yard mowed during the summer months: Marcia Walters, Donni Clark, Rod Poeschl, Al Strauss and the Boy Scouts.

## **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, October 2nd**. 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*



## Church Directory

The Membership Activities Commission is working on a new church directory. We will be set up in the Parlor on **Sunday October 1st and 8th** before and after the worship service. Please plan to stop by and get your picture taken. No appointments. No sales. There will be information cards in the bulletin or near the attendance sign in books. Please fill these out and bring them with you when you get your picture taken. This will help us update our church records. There will be a “make-up” date on November 5th to catch as many people as possible. Once the books are put together, they will be available for a small donation of \$5.00 to help offset the cost of printing. We hope you will want to be included in this directory. If you cannot make it to have your picture taken, you may send one to Kathy at [office@fumcgreeley.org](mailto:office@fumcgreeley.org). Contact Kathy with questions or for more information.

## Music Ministry

### Highlight on Music Ministers (Choristers)



Hi! This is Bill Conklin, a member of the First United Methodist choir here in Greeley. I've enjoyed singing in choirs since Singers 20 in high school, Collegiate Chorale at ASU (sang Halleluia Chorus), three different Barbershop choruses, and Methodist Church choirs since the 1980s. I've always loved a large variety of music, especially if it has great vocal harmonies. Please feel free to come sing with us, the door is always open. We definitely need more singers, and you can even be a beginning singer.



Choir Rehearsals are Thursday Nights at 7 p.m. in the choir room and Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. in the chancel area.

Cheers!  
Travis Kornegay



Make plans to join us for our 2nd Annual Chili Cook-Off. On October 22nd after the worship service, we will have a Haunted Chili Dinner in the Fellowship Hall. Enter your best and spookiest chili! If you don't make chili, consider bringing a batch of cinnamon rolls. If you don't make either, plan to stay and enjoy the food, fun and fellowship anyway!



## Membership Activities Commission

### Save These Dates!

The Membership Committee has the following activities planned. We hope you will put these on your calendar and join us in the fun!

October 22nd	Haunted Chili Cook-off
November 19th	Church-Wide Thanksgiving Dinner
December 2nd	Church Decorating and Soup Lunch
December 17th	Christmas Lights Tour




### Rally Sunday

A great time was had with tie-dyed shirts and root beer floats!



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**


 **WELD PROJECT CONNECT**  
Helping Helping Helping

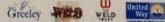
A one-day event providing FREE on-site services to those in need.

Thursday, October 19  
Noon - 5:30 p.m.  
Island Grove Events Center - Greeley

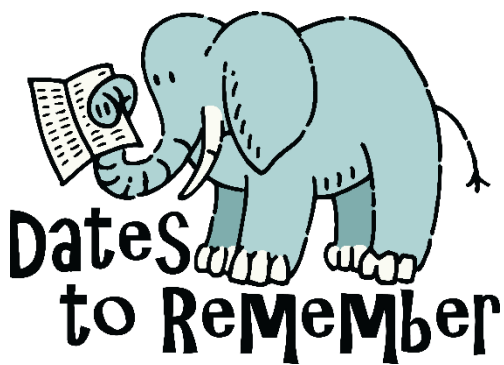
Volunteer Navigators are paired up one-on-one to guide guests through the services being provided. Navigators will receive required training prior to WPC.

For more information  
[www.unitedway-weld.org/projectconnect](http://www.unitedway-weld.org/projectconnect)





If you have questions, please contact  
Ginger Jansson at 970-339-3496 or  
[tgjansson@gmail.com](mailto:tgjansson@gmail.com)



October 1<sup>st</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Church directory pictures  
October 22<sup>nd</sup> Haunted Chili Cook-off  
November 19<sup>th</sup> Church Thanksgiving Dinner  
December 2<sup>nd</sup> Church decorating & Soup Lunch  
December 17<sup>th</sup> Christmas Lights Tour