

2023



September

Celebration
Time

10:00 AM Sundays

*“We are God’s
People Sharing the
Love of Christ!”*

Website:
www.fumcgreeley.org

Email:
office@fumcgreeley.org

Pastor’s Letter

My daughter has been encouraging me to get one of those DNA tests. She tells me it will show me my genealogy, giving me a better idea of who I am. So, I looked into it. Wow, all the stuff I can learn about me. This test will identify where my ancestors lived, back 50 generations. It will also give me an in-depth account of my heritage for 5 generations. This test will identify 15 unique traits about myself that have been passed down through generations. For example, one of these traits might be that I consume caffeine at a faster rate than the average person. WAIT, that’s not all! YES, there is more! If I act right now, I will get “80+ reports jam-packed with DNA-based nutrition tips, allergy markers, personality insights and MORE!”

Finally, I am going to understand that a corn allergy is why I get a stuffy nose when the corn starts tasseling. I am going to understand why my toes look the way they do. Maybe I will find out if I am related to the composer Johann Strauss. Not only do we share the same surname, but he also has a large head, and, like me, could only grow a patchy beard. So, there is a chance. Who knows what other amazing things I might discover about myself. The truth is I am not all that interested in any of this.

I am not opposed to DNA tests; I don’t have anything against them. I will even admit that they may give me some interesting facts about my past. I just don’t believe they reveal who I am. It is much like the genealogy list of Jesus in the first chapter of Matthew. That list includes prostitutes, murderers, and frauds. There was a lot of baggage in his genealogy. There were many reasons Jesus could have thought, “How can I be the Son of God with this hot mess of an ancestry line?” Jesus knew that it was God’s love, it was God’s call, and God naming him God’s very own that made him who he was. Jesus knew it wasn’t his family line or his past that dictated who he was. It was God’s love that made him the Son of God.

We too can get caught up in our past and feel we are unworthy. We can convince ourselves that God could never love a dirt bag like us. If God knew the bad things I have done or thought, if God knew my family history, God would never love me. The truth is your family, your past, or your mistakes don’t dictate who you are. God has claimed you; God has named you a precious child. That is your truest identity. As a precious child of God, you are free to let go of your past, let go of your shame, let go of your fear. You are free to live in the grace and love of God. You are free to forgive yourself and love yourself.

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: July 2023

Conference Apportionment	\$	3,500.00
Communication	\$	2,127.32
Personnel	\$	131,084.31
Education	\$	325.22
Caring and Evangelism	\$	0
Membership Activity	\$	644.62
Worship	\$	41.95
Board of Trustees	\$	47,785.31
Administration	\$	4,508.67
Finance	\$	794.34
Youth/College	\$	285.70
Day Care	\$	11,399.55
TOTAL EXPENSES: July 2023	\$	202,496.99
GIFTS RECEIVED	\$	186,566.39
BUDGET BALANCE	\$	-15,930.60



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.



Hana Sameshima	9/11	97 yrs.
Rosie Jelden	9/11	90 yrs.
Peggy Pormen	9/16	86 yrs.
Jeannie Merriman	9/19	91 yrs.
Joanne Truitt	9/20	92 yrs.
Gene Hammer	9/25	83 yrs.
Sue Kropf	9/28	86 yrs.



Dale & Flow Mikkelson	9/01	61 years
Don & Raylene Shively	9/05	59 years
Doug & Lila Austin	9/07	54 years

Our deepest sympathy to the family of:



Jean Wilson	June 29, 2023
Glenn Hewitt	July 30, 2023
Rosa Ann "Sunny" Sundt-Busch	August 20, 2023

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.



Announcing...

The deadline for the October 2023 *Messenger* is **Monday, September 18th**. 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.



Habitat Build Day **Saturday, September 23**

Builders: First United Methodist Church will be providing the volunteers for a Build Day at Greeley-Weld Habitat for Humanity on Saturday, September 23rd. We might be painting, hanging siding, putting in insulation, or other ‘exciting’ tasks. Our work depends on where the homes are in the process of construction. We will be notified during the week ahead about our specific tasks. Volunteers must be at least 16 years old. The Build Day begins at 8 am and ends at 3 pm, with a half hour for lunch. If you can only come for part of the day, that is okay. Details with the exact address of the work site will be available later, but we will be working at Mission Springs in Evans.

Lunch Crew: Volunteers are also needed to provide lunch for the builders. If you sign up to help with lunch, you will be contacted with more details about the menu.

Sign-up sheets for both Builders and Lunch Crew volunteers will be in the East narthex in September. Also there will be information about ‘What to Know before Build Day.’ Build volunteers can go online to complete the waiver form, or paper forms will be available, too.

Thank you for your support of Greeley-Weld Habitat for Humanity. If you have questions, please contact Marian Ruge, 970-584-4199 or amruge@juno.com.



News from United Women in Faith



United
Women
in Faith

With summer days nearing an end and children back to school, it’s time to resume our fall schedule.

United Women in Faith will meet in Fellowship Hall on Thursday, **September 14, at 1:30 P.M.** Ulafay Fry will be presenting the program about our United Women in Faith....a faith driven organization with focus on

women, children and youth. We are on a mission to boldly act and transform communities locally and globally.

Please plan to come and learn more about United Women in Faith. There will be refreshments and door prizes.

Dee Kratochvil

Lucky Duckling Daycare

We are pleased to announce that Lucky Duckling Daycare has now opened at First United Methodist Church. They are located in the Education Wing of the second floor. You will hear more about what they are doing from Director, Hailey Zaggie, in future newsletters.

From The Education Commission

We hope everyone has had a great summer with vacations, visits with family and friends, and maybe just rejuvenating at home. Sunday School for our children will be starting back up on **September 17th**, so mark your calendars! There will be fun and interesting lessons that will help our young people learn about God and Jesus. Plan to come to church at 10 o'clock and go to Sunday School right after the children's time in the service. Welcome back old and new friends!



Local and Global

Local and Global is gearing up for another active mission year. We want to thank everyone for the contributions for the Blessing Box. Weld Food Bank backpacks are on schedule again to help students with food for the weekends.

Our group will be meeting **September 13th** at the Epic Egg on west 10th street. If you are interested in joining us, please let me know. We would love for you to attend a meeting to see what the mission outreach of our church does. If you have questions, please contact Donni Clark at 970 330-5940 or jdclark1@live.com.

Thanks,
Donni Clark
 970 330-5940 or jdclark1@live.com

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.



SPRC

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

In every congregation the SPRC must focus on building strong relationships between the staff and the congregation. Finding a balance between building relationships and handling administrative tasks can be difficult, so the ministry of this committee is crucial for this aspect of a vital and effective congregation.

The administrative function of the SPRC includes both leadership and management. *Leadership* is the role of “keeping an eye on the big picture.” We must remember we are part of the body of Christ with a mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

Management is the role of tending to day-to-day activities so that details are taken care of, and strategies are implemented. Management includes holding both the staff and congregations accountable for carrying through with plans and promises.

We are continuing to review and update important documents for the employees and the church. This 3rd quarter tasks us with reviewing salary and benefit packages, reviewing, and updating, and writing new job descriptions as needed as staffing changes.

Salary and benefits are necessary things to get and keep quality staff, leaders and teachers in our building. These items do not happen without annual reviews, a balanced budget and finding ways to bring in new financial support for the building and our ministry.

We are reviewing and making changes to the Employee Handbook and Policy and Procedure Regarding Ethical Behavior pamphlet. The handbook contains many things like the benefits package along with new state and federal guidelines and laws. We hope to have this document updated soon, handed out and reviewed with all the new and existing employees.

Keeping these things in mind we are working within the Music ministry as we are changing, saying goodbye to our accompanist Daniel, to guitarist Terry, and welcoming back Travis and perhaps bringing our drummer Kevin back on board.

You will see and not see some of the new things happening. The best thing happening right now is the new day care “Lucky Ducklings” has started, this will mean new sounds, new young children of Christ, along with new leaders, teachers in our building. The new internet provider ALLO will be helping improve our streaming and an upgraded tool for the day care resources.

Once again, *To Do Our Tasks Well*, we need and encourage the support and input from all of our congregation members. Evaluations need to come for 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.

Consider joining Us or one of our other committees this Fall. Reach out to Pastor AL and let him know you are interested. He will help you find the right place.



From Trustees

The Board of Trustees is happy to announce that our internet and phone service has been updated to ALLO. This will allow us a better Livestreaming service and internet access throughout the building. We do ask for a little patience as we work out any kinks in the systems.

We would also like to ask that as you drive around the church building, please take a minute to scan the property and check for any security problems (such as people hanging around the building after hours). Please let the office know if you feel there may be a security issue.

Finally, we would like to shout out a big THANK YOU to Kevin Hilmes, Marcia Walters, Marcia Hull and John Hull who helped clean up after the recent flooding in the Fellowship Hall.

Kairos Prison Ministry

Thank you all for the support and prayers you show to me and the Kairos Team; we could not do what we do without you. Kairos is a vital ministry taking Jesus to those inside the walls of a prison. Those of us called to go inside those walls come out more blessed than when we go in.

I am sharing with you a poem written by one of the inmates at Denver Women's Correctional Facility. It touches my heart and I keep it close to remind me of why I do what I do.

ONE BUCKET OF WATER by Offender LM

*I was a in prison; you came to me.
I was hungry for knowledge; you taught me.
I was afraid; you showed me how to keep moving forward.
I forgot the song in my heart; you sang to me.*

*Who among us can truly know the depths of sorrow in a man's soul:
Can I know yours? Can you know mine?
We all have the weight of the world on our hearts,
And it can seem, at times, Like every effort to speak against it is only
A whisper in the storm. Maybe.
But no, not so! Your dedicated work here, changes things.*

*How much compassion does it take to rise above your own pain and say, "I'll do what I can.
How much courage does it take to step forward and declare, "I only have one bucket of water to throw
On this fire; But I'm going to throw it with all my might."*

*I was in prison, and you came to me. I felt invisible,
And you saw me. In turn, I see you. I hear you, I honor you. I thank you.*

Blessings,
RuthMary

Backpacks for Kids

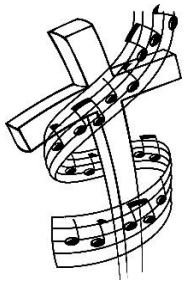
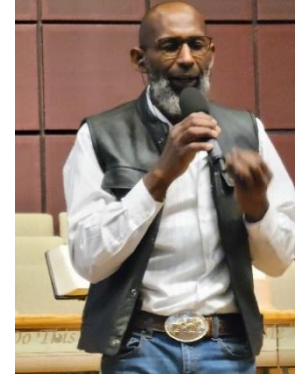


Pray for Our Students

There will be no Backpacks for Kids in September. We will be starting back on October 2nd at 9AM. The Weld Food Bank is asking all volunteers to please sign up at the following link: <https://weldfoodbank.volunteerhub.com/lp/FUMC>. You can also call the food bank at 970-356-2199 and let them know you are volunteering. If you have any questions, please speak with Barb Shaw or Vicki Bottenberg.

Music Opportunities

During the summer months several members of our congregation provided music for specials. This summer was no exception with the Sherwood Flute Ensemble, Cassidy McClees, Thompson President, and others providing melodic lines, lyrics, and messages thru music.



Music Ministry

Dear FUMC Music Makers,

We are excited to start a new year of music ministry at FUMC. However, we could use your help. If you are able, we are looking for new recruits for our music ministry. Do you play or sing?

If so, please contact our music director, Travis Kornegay, at tkornegay@gmail.com.

Rehearsals will resume on Thursday, August 31st at 7 p.m. in the choir room downstairs.

Please let Travis know if you can make it, so we can have music ready for you!

This year, we would like to highlight musical offerings throughout the year as well as highlights of our Music Ministers. So, please stay tuned for further details!

Cheers!
Travis Kornegay

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



If you have questions, please contact Ginger Jansson at 970-339-3496 or tgjansson@gmail.com

Membership

Where has the participate in at looking forward to some fun activities this fall. On September 10th, Rally Sunday, we are asking everyone to wear a tie-dyed shirt (even if you didn't make one on Tie-dye Sunday). We will have root beer floats following the worship service.

In late September or early October, we will be creating a new "in house" picture directory. This means we will not be bringing in a company to take pictures and hit members with high price sales pitches. Instead, we will be setting up and taking the pictures ourselves and creating the directory. Please watch for more details at a later date.

Activities Commission

summer gone? We hope that you were able to least one of our fun activities this summer. We are



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!



As the 2023/24 school year starts up so do our Kid's Hope mentors. We offer up our prayers for those who volunteer in this rewarding program.



Thank you to the following:

Laurie Poeschl, Kim Hilmes, Donna Hettinger, Lee Hewitt, RuthMary Lyons, Kathy Allen, Bill Conklin and Maria Conklin.

For more information on Kid's Hope please contact Kim Hilmes or Laurie Poeschl

Life Line Screening

Life Line Screening will once again be at the church on **September 15th** providing preventive screenings. To register for your appointment and to receive the special discount, please call 1-800-640-6307 or visit [LLSA>SOCIAL/HC](#)



Rally Sunday
September 10
Wear a tie-dyed shirt.
Root Beer floats served
following the worship service.