

2024



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,

I have been working with William to get the church furnace working to its fullest potential. Right when we get it running to full capacity here comes the sub-zero temperatures. We had the furnace going all night, after a night of -20 and at the start of worship it was -8, the sanctuary was up to 63 degrees. You know it is cold when the furnace has no chance of keeping up.

What does a person do when the furnace can't keep up. Really, there is only one thing a person can do. Wait! Wait for warmer days. Wait for things to thaw out. Wait for the sun to come out. The good news is the shortest day of the year is behind us. Spring is coming. Every day the sun shines a minute or two longer. That doesn't seem like much, but when you string the days together into a week, the sun shines for 15 minutes longer. It takes time for the warmth to come.

The same is true with the warmth of Christ. This world can blast us with some nasty cold spells. We lose a loved one, we lose some of our independence, we lose financial security, we lose our good health. All those events, and many more, can leave us feeling like we are out in the cold. You know the world can be a very cold place when these events occur.

What can one do when these cold storms hit our lives? Wait! Wait on the Lord. Wait for the warmth of Christ to remind you that you are loved. Waiting is one of the main themes of lent. It prepares us to wait when the cold strikes our lives. It helps us to remember warmer days will be coming. It helps us to remember that Christ will get us through. This year lent comes earlier than it usually does. Lent is two weeks away. So let us wait. Wait for warmer days. Wait for the sun. Wait for the Son. Hear the Good news, Spring is coming.

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

Tenley Oreskovich

Laras Prasetya

William Zaggle

Sound and Media

Erika Vasquez

Custodian

John Hull

Security

Ginger Jansson

Newsletter Editor
tgjansson@gmail.com

First United Methodist Church 2024 Budget

Communication	\$ 2,500
SPPRC	\$ 237,528
Education	\$ 4,500
Caring/Evangelism	\$ 565
Membership Activities	\$ 775
Worship	\$ 4,200
Trustees	\$ 78,000
Administration	\$ 15,000
Finance Committee	\$ 650
<u>Daycare</u>	<u>\$ 145,248</u>
Total	\$ 488,966



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.

Thank you, FUMC Finance Committee



Help us celebrate the birthdays of our church members who are 80 years old or older.

Carol Walso	2/01	84 yrs.
Ulafay Fry	2/02	95 yrs.
MaryEtta Moore	2/02	87 yrs.
Phil Tarman	2/03	81 yrs.
Leon Grube	2/04	84 yrs.
Beth Hyde	2/05	87 yrs.
Joe Moore	2/07	87 yrs.
John Elliott	2/09	85 yrs.
Luella Kinnison	2/14	89 yrs.
Virgil Harper	2/19	89 yrs.
Lola Buel	2/21	95 yrs.
Lee Hewitt	2/27	84 yrs.



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

Chuck & Donna Hettinger	2/12	52 yrs.
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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.



Announcing...

The deadline for the March 2024 *Messenger* is **Monday, February 19th**. 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@funcgreeley.org. Thank you.

Successful Cookie Walk



Greeley-Weld
**Habitat
for Humanity®**

The annual Habitat for Humanity Cookie Walk was a big success! Thanks to all the cookie bakers and candy makers who donated delicious goodies. And thanks to everyone who came and bought sweet treats. About \$3000 was raised. This is a small amount towards the cost of a forever home for a family, but it was a big community event. It was a busy morning at Zoe's. Cookie shoppers were entertained by a rotation of musical groups from community schools. Santa and his elves were there, but the comfort dogs were more popular than Santa. Everyone wanted to pet the therapy dogs! Lots of people made crafts – tree ornaments with glitter! – and others shopped at the Farmers Market in the next room. If you missed the fun this Christmas, plan to attend next December!



Hope Springs Progress

If you happen to be driving in the area around Sam's Club, look for the heavy equipment that is moving dirt, putting in the infrastructure for Hope Springs, the next Habitat for Humanity neighborhood. Construction of 3D printed houses is expected to start this spring. There will be 154 paired homes, 22 single family homes, a soccer field, on-site childcare center, playground, disc golf park and an apartment complex. The area is walkable to grocery stores and schools, as well as many other amenities. The mission of Habitat for Humanity is to put God's love into action by bringing people together to build homes, communities, and hope. The vision of Greeley-Weld Habitat is a world where everyone has a decent place to live. Thank you for supporting our amazing Greeley-Weld Habitat for Humanity.

Prayer Shawls are Available



If you know someone who needs a little extra warmth this winter, stop by Kathy's office and choose a prayer shawl to give him/her. There is no cost for the shawl; members of our church have knitted or crocheted them as gifts. A prayer shawl can surround a new baby, lift the spirits of someone who is sick or lonely, comfort a grieving friend, or share God's love with a neighbor. (Please record who you are gifting the shawl to in the book in the cupboard.)

Local and Global

Local and Global Concerns is very grateful for your Christmas offering. We will be meeting soon to determine how your generous offerings will be used for nonprofits, locally and globally.

We continue to provide food for the needy and would appreciate you keeping us in mind when you shop for groceries. If you could pick up a couple of items for our food bags, we would appreciate it. We are in need of protein (tuna in a pouch, chicken, soup in pop top cans or peanut butter). We can always use fruit cups and crackers. Items can be put in the Mission Room across from the office.

Again, thank you for supporting our mission work.

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



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, February 5th**. We meet at the Weld Food Bank at 9AM. The food bank encourages everyone who volunteers to register online if you can but if not, please show up as plenty of help is always needed. If you have issues, please call them at 970-356-2199, ext. 307. Please contact Barbara Shaw or Donni Clark for any questions or for more information. Thank you.



Pray for Our Students



Party People Plans!

“Let’s get ‘Coco-LoCo’!” Who says you can’t have dessert first? Join us on **February 11th** after worship for some chocolate fun. Bring your favorite chocolate delight to share.

Greeters



The January-April greeter sign-up sheet can be found in the East Narthex. If you would like to be a greeter on Sunday morning, please sign up. 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.

The 2024 Flower Chart

If you would like to have flowers placed on the altar in honor or memory of a loved one or special occasion, please sign-up on the flower calendar in the Sanctuary hallway. The cost of flowers is \$45, and the church will order them for you.



News from United Women in Faith

The February Women in Faith meeting will be **on February 8th**. Beth Hyde will have the program. Donna Hettinger and Kim Hilmes will be hostesses. We hope to see everyone there.



United
Women
in Faith

Education Commission



The *McNulty Scholarship* will be available soon. If you would like a copy of the application or more information about the scholarship, please contact Connie Long @ 970-371-5277.

Pastor Al will be holding a Lenten Bible Study after worship beginning **February 18th**. The study will meet in the Parlor.



Life Line Screening will be here on **Thursday, February 29th**, 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.

From the Trustees



The Trustees have repaired the pumps on the boilers and the building should be warming up. At the January meeting the Trustees began setting goals for 2024. Some of these are:

- Create a monthly schedule for preventive maintenance on all systems in the building
- Set up organization routine for workroom on the 3rd floor for ease of finding tools
- Address safety issues regarding homeless camping out and unauthorized use of parking lot

April Garage Sale

The Trustees will be organizing a garage sale in April. More details on the date and when you may start donating items will be in next month's newsletter. We do ask that when you donate your items they are already priced.



Church Directory

Our new church directory is complete. If you have not already picked yours up, please contact the church office.

We have 10 extra books for anyone who may have not ordered one. We are asking a \$5 donation to help offset the cost of printing.



Scam and Fraud Awareness

As in previous years, many of the latest scams in 2024 will likely involve twists on time-tested scams. In an effort to help protect our church members we will be running a series of articles in the upcoming newsletters to help you be aware of some of the most common ones.

1. AI powered scams. Perhaps the most obvious example of scammers using new technology to power existing scams comes from artificial intelligence (AI). For example, scammers might use AI to:
 - Write more convincing and natural-sounding phishing emails and text messages
 - Create deep fakes of celebrities to trick victims into thinking they're investing in a good company or project.
 - Impersonate the victim's friend or relative and ask for money as part of a "grandparent scam".
 - Impersonate an employer and ask for personal information.

The potential to create an image, video or voice of someone else could make existing scams even more believable, and opens up new opportunities for scammers.

2. Student Loan Forgiveness Scams: The back-and-forth changes in student loan forgiveness creates a ripe opportunity for scammers. The scammers know people want to believe their student loans will be forgiven, and they'll use that hope for their personal gains. For example, scammers may contact you via phone or create phony application sites aimed at stealing your social security number or your bank account information. They may put pressure on their victims with fake urgent messages that encourage you to apply for debt relief "before it's too late." Then they'll charge you a hefty application fee. It costs nothing to apply for student loan forgiveness, so someone asking you to pay a fee could be a scammer. In addition, the US Department of Education won't contact you by phone.

Information from Experian
Article by Louis DeNicola

Lucky Duckling Daycare Newsletter Update

First of all, we would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who has brought by donations! Every little bit helps immensely. We are continuing to grow, and are up to 20 kids (plus a few on a waitlist!) and nine staff members for the daycare. The next step for us to continue growing is to open an infant room for ages 6 weeks to 12 months. There is a huge need in the community for infant care. Many parents in Greeley are having to postpone much needed employment while they search for care for their infants.

Current needs for the daycare are:

- Wipes
- Cultural toys and books (anything that can be used to expose children to other cultures through play and reading.)

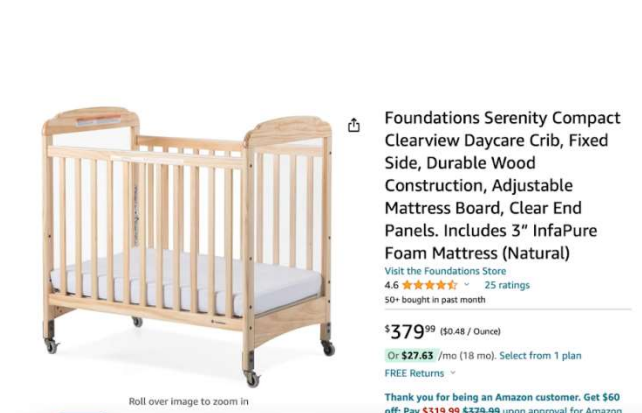
In order to open an infant room, the state requires us to have new, very specific cribs. This will be our biggest expense and possible delay in being able to accept infants. Donations towards cribs or purchases of cribs would be a huge blessing to us. Donors will be able to have a plaque placed on the Memorial Tree in the West Narthex.

Each crib is \$380 (mattress included), and we will need at least five of them to be able to open, with a goal to have nine.

Product description on Amazon: Foundations Serenity Compact Clearview Daycare Crib, Fixed Side, Durable Wood Construction, Adjustable Mattress Board, Clear End Panels. Includes 3" InfaPure Foam Mattress (Natural)

If you need help or further information about the cribs, feel free to swing by the daycare or call/text us at (970) 685-1096.

Thank you to everyone for your kindness, patience, and support during this time of growth for the church and daycare!





**February 11 -
Let's get Coco-Loco -
Chocolate desserts after
the service.**

**February 14 -
Ash Wednesday Service
5:30 PM**