

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,

Tis the season to be worried has passed. For me, Christmas is a time of anxiety and fear. I worry that I am going to forget some important detail for the advent and Christmas eve services. I have children traveling great distances to come home, and I worry about their safety. I am always a nervous wreck, wondering what Sharon will think of her Christmas present. During all this, I must remember our wedding anniversary. Yikes, another present to worry about! On top of it all, it appears I will have to worry about how my Detroit Lions will do in the playoffs. To be honest, at the end of Christmas, I am tired. I am tired of worrying, tired of being afraid, tired of the nervous feelings. During this Christmas time, I end up asking myself, "did Jesus come to this earth that I can live in fear and worry?"

When we read the Gospel's accounts of Jesus' birth the answer is clear. No, Jesus did not come so we can be slaves to anxiety and fear. Zechariah was told not to fear. Joseph was told to be not afraid, the Shepherds out in their fields were told the same thing. Even Mary, who was getting very troubling news was told not to be afraid. How can the Good News boldly proclaim, "do not be afraid", in times of struggle and strife? The birth of a child, a child named Immanuel, (God with us) empowers the Good News, reminding us that we are never alone.

If history has taught us anything, it is every New Year is going to bring new challenges. I believe that 2024 will be no different. This upcoming year will have beautiful moments, heartwarming moments, times that take our breath away. 2024 will also have heartbreaking, anxious moments. There will definitely be things to worry about. However, the Good News is the message of Christmas, God is with us. When we carry that message, it empowers us to hope all things, believe all things, it allows us to do all things through Christ who strengthens us. For this New Year, let us remember Jesus changes everything.

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

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.

Judy Linn	1/03	88 yrs.
Doreen Smith	1/08	102 yrs.
Mercedes Morrison	1/16	107 yrs.
Doris Bunting	1/19	97 yrs.
Gary Bracken	1/20	90 yrs.
Anita Dosch	1/20	83 yrs.
Paul Bechthold	1/25	96 yrs.
Janie Bernd	1/28	84 yrs.



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

Frank and Glinda Ross	1/03	53 yrs.
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Maxine Bracken, November 22, 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 February 2024 *Messenger* is **Monday, January 8th**. 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.

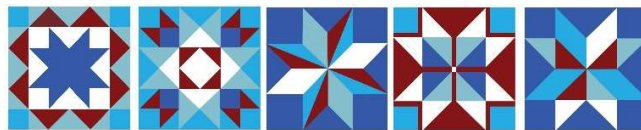
Sewing for Service Summary for 2023

During 2023 the women who are a part of Sewing for Service were busy, busy, busy. Some of us met in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday afternoons. Brenda Grube, Nancy Hermance, Sue Kropf, Beth Hyde, JoAnn Hickman, Carol McConnell, Doris Biehl, Ellie Johns and Marian Ruge were regulars this year. Jody Scholfield, Linda Moody and Mary Scheel sewed or pinned or tied or created at home.

The purpose of Sewing for Service is to provide warm, colorful tied quilts for community members. This is the list of donations for 2023:

Veterans	27
Habitat for Humanity	16
Greeley Family House	15
Wishes Come True	12
Life Stories	10
Department of Human Services	49
Angel Tree	1
Sold	<u>15</u>
Total	145

Sewing for Service has been blessed to receive many donations. Linda Moody gave us several completed, colorful quilts. Donna Barlett cleaned out her cupboards and gave us miles of fabulous fabric. Marcia Hull donated sheets. Connie Long found fleece for us. Bev Williams gave us some 'flimsies' to finish. Other donations just appear and surprise us. All donations are welcome. Because we receive so many donations of fabric, we use the money from the sales to repair and service the sewing machines and buy batting, thread, and other supplies. Thank you to the cheerful Sewing for Service worker bees and to the members of our church who support this mission. If you are looking for a warm blanket, stop by Fellowship Hall on Wednesday afternoon. Our shop will be open! We might even put you to work.



Prayer Shawls



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.)

News from United Women in Faith



Our December Christmas celebration was highlighted by music & singing from Rex Andrews, brother of Ulafay Fry. Special Christmas stories & items (collections of angels and nativities) were shared all around the tables and a delight to hear about.

We start a new year on **January 11th** with our annual pledge service by Marcia Walters. We financially support our WIF district, service agencies, students through the Aims Foundation, and our own church. We would like to pitch in to replace the nonworking refrigerator/freezer in our kitchen. Let's think about how we can accomplish these goals in 2024.

Do you know that the WIF is responsible for overseeing the kitchen? We would appreciate it if you were using the kitchen that everything is cleaned, dried, and put back in its proper place. Then it is ready for the next person. We are short on drying towels and wash cloths as the day care is also using them. We would appreciate donations. Our drawers are getting empty.

We've noticed the kitchen sinks being left unclean with nasty debris dried on the bottom and soap scum not rinsed away. The Lucky Duckling Daycare uses those sinks too so please see they are left clean when you are finished. That is something that gets inspected by the health department periodically.

Donna Hettinger,
Secretary



Local and Global

Our Lucky Duckling Daycare is up and running. Hailey Zuggle, the director, had an article in the last newsletter with items that they could use. Needed items include healthy snacks, items for extra lunches (microwavable mac n cheese bowls), diapers and wipes. There is a box in the east Narthex for donations to the daycare. Please put your items in the box and we will see that they get to Hailey.

The Blessing Box is stocked several times a week and items are getting low. We are in need of protein (tuna in a pouch, chicken, chicken soup etc.) in pop top cans. We can always use fruit cups, peanut butter and crackers. We make hygiene bags which include a washcloth, soap, lotion, toothbrush, toothpaste and a comb. We are getting low on those items. Please put any donations in the Mission Room which is located across from the office.

The Local and Global Concerns Commission is very grateful for the Easter and Christmas offerings as those funds support our mission work. With your generosity, we are able to support missions locally and across the world. After making our contributions for 2023, we have additional funds and discussed how to best use them. It was decided to support our local church with a contribution of \$2000 to the operating account. If we didn't have our church as a base of operations and your generous support, we would not be able to do much mission work. Again, thank you so much!

Thanks, *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, January 8th**. 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

Education Commission

The Wednesday Bible Study group will be starting lessons again on **January 17th, 10am** in the Parlor. We welcome any individual who would like to join us. Our study this time will be Adam Hamilton's newly published, "*Wrestling with DOUBT, Finding Faith*".

Everyone has doubts. Where is God when bad things happen? Does God hear our prayers? Is there a heaven? Often, we treat such questions as the enemy of faith, but uncertainty doesn't mean our belief is lacking. We will be talking about how we can create a deeper, richer encounter with God.

Please call Kathy Trevino @ 970-353-5522, and let her know by **Jan. 4th** if you are interested in getting a book. If you have questions please contact Connie Long, 970-371-5277 or Carolyn Tarman, 970-396-8564

We will be putting information out about the McNulty Scholarship in February and March, please let Connie Long know if you would like an application.

Education Commission, Connie

Party People Plans!



The Party People are hosting a Birthday Potluck on **Sunday, January 14th**, after the worship service. Plan to start the new year with a party! Birthday cake will be provided, bring a dish to share. It's always fun to find out who shares your birthday month.

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.

Church Conference Report

13 church members met with District Superintendent Mark Calhoun on Saturday, December 16th, to approve Pastor Al's 2024 Compensation Package. Also discussed were the 2024 operating budget, 2023 achievements and 2024 goals. A copy of the conference booklet can be found on the table outside the office. Minutes of the meeting as well as a list of our new leadership will be included in next month's newsletter.

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.



December 10 – Children’s Program then the Scrooge play at the UCCC.



December 17 – Choir Program. Choir members, special musicians – Christine Mallery, Bobbi Miller, Gabriel Bitá, & Marcia Bohnenblust





January 14 -
Birthday potluck after the service.
Bring a dish to share,
birthday cake will be provided.