

Our mission is to faithfully witness of Jesus Christ so that:

- Our relationship with God can be nurtured,
- Our discipleship can be strengthened,
- The dignity and worth of persons can be valued,
- The recognition and contribution of others is accepted,
- We become aware of and respond to the needs of the community, and
- We will respect and care for God's earth.



Communicator

A monthly newsletter of

 Community of Christ

Fort Collins, Colorado

A Welcoming Congregation



May 2020

For everyone born, a place at the table



John of the Cross: Poet, Pastor, Mystic —Richard Rohr's Daily Meditation Friday, April 24, 2020

Father Iain Matthew is a contemporary Carmelite priest from England and author of The Impact of God: Soundings from St John of The Cross. My copy is all marked up, so brilliant are his insights on the predictable impact of God on the soul. In this passage he explores the mystical and symbolic power of the "night" for John and how it can encourage us today.

Poet, pastor, mystic, John [of the Cross] is first a witness to the impact of God in his life. He has taken the risk of surrender, and can speak with the authority of one who has been there. He testifies to a God who, precisely, is pressing in to meet, to change, and to fill us in our deepest need.... Love changes people, and John's witness to God's love may help us to trust and to be brave.

A generous God is fine when things are running smoothly. But what [about] when they are not and darkness is invading? What [about] when trusted patterns have broken down, or we feel too far gone to bother even trying? We dwell at

outer limits, and some events in life—loss, failure, stress, sin—remind us of the threat of chaos.

That is where John of the Cross stands: at the threshold of uncertainty; and he assures us that what dwells beyond is not simply chaos. The darkness bears the Spirit of God, who broods over the waters of death and has power to work a resurrection.... In our darkness, he finds Jesus's darkness; and what he echoes is the impact of Easter....

Night: we cannot stop it, or hasten it; it just comes, and it teaches us every twenty-four hours that we are not in complete control. John does seem to think there is something important here. Others speak of growth, suffering, purification, but 'we are calling' it 'night'; [1] calling it "dark night," very appropriately' [2]

John's Toledo imprisonment and escape gave to the symbol 'night' its full weight.... [For him] the symbol is able to carry humanity's pain, able to hold even such a sense of alienation from God that the inner self feels dismantled.... That is the resonance of the symbol for John. Night signifies that which comes upon us and takes us out of our own control; it announces that as the place of resurrection. A God who heals in darkness—this is John's word of hope in a destabilised [sic.] world.

We have all experienced some form of “night” in our lives, of lack of control and certainty. But we are also fortunate to have wise and good guides like John of the Cross to accompany us, reminding us that we are not abandoned by God in those times, but loved more deeply than we can imagine all the way through them.

[1] John of the Cross, *The Ascent of Mount Carmel*, book 1, 1.1, as cited in Matthew, 160.

[2] John of the Cross, *The Dark Night*, Prologue, as cited in Matthew, 160.

Iain Matthew, *The Impact of God: Soundings from St John of The Cross* (Hodder and Stoughton Ltd: 1995), 1, 3, 51, 55–56.

Online Zoom Meetings

Preparations are underway to facilitate Fort Collins Congregation on-line Zoom worship services, meetings, and activities. You will be able to connect to the website using your desktop computer (with or without a webcam and speaker), laptop computer, iPad, smart phone, etc. If you do not have any of these devices, you will also be able to call in using your telephone to participate in the event.

If you would like to practice connecting to a meeting and setting up your device, you can contact Gary Chatburn to setup a “test meeting” so you can get prepared for the upcoming on-line meetings. If you have any questions, you can also give him a call about your question.

From Your Facilities Management Team



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Facilities Status: Due to the COVID-19 coronavirus, there still will be no congregational meetings or third-party meetings at the church. This period of “no meetings” will last now at least thru June 30, 2020. Even though Community of Christ International Headquarters has put out a statement stating that congregational services are not to begin in our facilities until after May 31, 2020, the decision to extend our facilities closure thru June 30, 2020 has been made as a result of consultation with the Rocky Mountain Mission Center and officials at the Colorado State Department of Health in addition to the World Church statement. Currently, the State of Colorado is in a “Safer at Home” order. Most of our congregation is in the “age group” that the Colorado governor is saying to stay home for our health. Only “essential travel” is advised. It is not known how long this order will remain in effect.

As conditions change and new directives are established, we will evaluate them to confirm whether or not our facilities can meet the requirements that are put in place by the State of Colorado as well as Larimer County. We want to make sure that we can keep everyone safe and healthy and not contribute to any spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus to any of our members. Unless there is a breakthrough in the development of a vaccine for this virus, we are most likely going to be operating under some type of a restricted plan for a while. In the meantime, as mentioned elsewhere in the *Communicator*, efforts are under way to begin planning services and activities that can be held online via the Zoom meeting platform. Please watch your email for notices or listen for telephone calls and voice-mail messages.

Notes from the CFO’s Desk

1st Quarter Receipts: Receipts for your 1st quarter contributions are available. Unless you need your receipt right away, we will hold them and batch them with the 2nd quarter receipts when they are printed. If you have questions,

please contact Ruth Chatburn, Fort Collins Co-Financial Officer.

Tithes and Offerings: The congregation is to be commended for its tithes and offerings support. We have been receiving funds on a regular basis via the mail during this time of not being able to meet together. Please continue to support the financial needs of the congregation and World Church by mailing your “Disciples Generous Response” direct to Gary or Ruth Chatburn. Expenses continue even though we are not currently meeting in our facilities. Thank you.

Financial Income & Expense Report

Financial summaries for the months of January and February 2020 are shown below. If you have any questions, please contact Gary Chatburn, Fort Collins Co-Financial Officer.

January 2020

World Church Income

World Mission Tithes	\$2,055.00
Abolish Poverty/End Suffering	194.00
Total:	\$2,249.00

Summary of Local Income

Local Operating	\$2,366.00
Building Fund	1,500.00
Two Cents a Meal	110.45
Family Assistance	65.00
Youth Fund	39.00
Narcotics Anonymous Pledge	1,070.00
Other	124.00
Total:	\$5,274.45

Summary of Local Expenses

Outreach Ministries	\$0.00
Worship Ministries	0.00
Youth Ministries	0.00
Mission, Vision, & Education	0.00
Pastoral Ministries	227.90
Fellowship Ministries	0.00
Administration/Communications	1,262.24
Stewardship	11,172.10
Total:	\$12,662.24

Activity Center Income

Rentals & Donations	\$170.00
Total:	\$170.00

Activity Center Expenses

Operating, Maint., & Insurance	\$5,176.80
Total:	\$5,176.80

Courtyard Building Income

Rentals & Donations	\$850.00
Total:	\$850.00

Courtyard Building Expenses

Operating, Maint., & Insurance	\$146.76
Total:	\$146.76

February 2020

World Church Income

World Mission Tithes	\$2,340.00
Abolish Poverty/End Suffering	331.00
Total:	\$2,671.00

Summary of Local Income

Local Operating	\$2,708.27
Building Fund	1,480.00
Two Cents a Meal	75.30
Family Assistance	95.00
Youth Fund	5.00
Narcotics Anonymous Pledge	90.00
Other	130.00
Total:	\$4,583.57

Summary of Local Expenses

Outreach Ministries	\$0.00
Worship Ministries	238.99
Youth Ministries	0.00
Mission, Vision, & Education	0.00
Pastoral Ministries	0.00
Fellowship Ministries	0.00
Administration/Communications	721.19
Stewardship	2,059.87
Total:	\$3,020.05

Activity Center Income

Rentals & Donations	\$1,345.00
Total:	\$1,345.00

Activity Center Expenses

Operating, Maint., & Insurance	\$1,069.19
Total:	\$1,069.19

Courtyard Building Income

Rentals & Donations	\$850.00
Total:	\$850.00

Courtyard Building Expenses

Operating, Maint., & Insurance	\$156.68
Total:	\$156.68



A Novel Bunch

No more meetings until the fall.

First Presidency Statement Update: Our Continued Response to COVID-19 Virus Pandemic

17 April 2020

The First Presidency has continued to monitor recommendations from professional health organizations about preventing the spread of COVID-19. Many nations continue to recommend the suspension of group gatherings. Based on our review, the First Presidency is advising congregations and mission centers to continue suspending church gatherings – worship services, meals, conferences, funerals, and other group activities – through at least 31 May 2020. We also strongly recommend that mission centers that sponsor camps, reunions, and vacation Bible schools during June should cancel those group activities. This includes not renting church-owned facilities to other groups unless the activity fills a critical social-service need. These group activities have a higher risk to participants due to factors such as extended time of being together, sharing common spaces like restrooms, lodging, and dining, and frequent group activities. The Presidency will continue to monitor the recommendations from professional health organizations and announce our

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recommendations later in May about camps, reunions, etc. in July and August.

The Presidency fully understands the impact these recommendations have on important ministries in the church. But we are committed to making Responsible Choices that uphold the welfare and safety of human life – especially for the most vulnerable in our communities.

Recognizing our need to suspend group gatherings during this pandemic eventually will end, the Presidency will be developing guidelines to help congregations and mission centers return to in-person group gatherings.

All World Church sites will remain closed to the public, and World Church-sponsored events will be canceled through at least Tuesday, 30 June 2020. This includes the Temple Complex, Peace Pavilion, and all historic sites. International Headquarters staff will continue to comply with the stay-at-home order by the mayor of Independence, Missouri, into May. We have notified International Headquarters staff members that they will work remotely from home through at least 31 May 2020.

The church's updates on COVID-19 can be found at www.CofChrist.org/covid-19.

The Presidency is deeply grateful for how the church, in its local context, has responded during this pandemic. We have experienced the hard work, creative leadership, and ministry provided by mission center officers, pastors, and so many others. The quality of ministry being provided has been a blessing. Thank you to all for responding faithfully and allowing the church to grow in new understandings during this challenging time. We continue to hold the church in our prayers.

– The First Presidency

Second-Sunday Social for May

is canceled.

May Birthdays



Porter Garner	05/03
Voni Simons	05/04
Awtumn Alcoser	05/10
Jamie Crawford	05/12
Jim Miller	05/15
Rose Julch	05/15
Lisa Garner	05/25
Toni Martinez	05/25



Speakers, Planners, Keyboard,
Greeters, and Nursery
(All Services Canceled for May)

May Calendar



Check the website:

<http://cofchristrm.org/FortCollins/>

- May 3: 9:30 a.m. **(Canceled)**
10:30 a.m. **(Canceled)**
Communion Sunday
First-Sunday Giving
- May 6: 5:30 p.m. Worship Coordinators
(Canceled)
6:00 p.m. Leadership Council
(Canceled)
- May 10: Mother's Day**
- May 10: 9:30 a.m. **(Canceled)**
10:30 a.m. **(Canceled)**
Second-Sunday Offering
Youth and Children's
Classes
(Baptism Classes)
Second-Sunday Social
(Canceled)
- May 14: 10:00–noon Take-Away Lunch
volunteers at Murphy
Center
(Canceled)
- May 17: 9:30 a.m. **(Canceled)**
10:30 a.m. **(Canceled)**
Communicator items due.
- May 23: 8:00 a.m. Saturday Morning
Homeless Breakfast
(Canceled)
- May 24: 9:30 a.m. **(Canceled)**
10:30 a.m. **(Canceled)**
Youth and Children's
Classes
(Baptism Classes)
- May 25: Memorial Day**
- May 31: 9:30 a.m. **(Canceled)**
10:30 a.m. **(Canceled)**

Zoom and Avaya Space and other Services

Watch for weekly emails to see what services are available online and how to connect to them. We have had one Zoom service in Fort Collins and may have more.



Not Everything Is Canceled

- Sunshine is not canceled
- Spring is not canceled
- Love is not canceled
- Relationships are not canceled
- Reading is not canceled
- Naps are not canceled
- Devotion is not canceled
- Music is not canceled
- Imagination is not canceled
- Kindness is not canceled
- Conversations are not canceled
- Humor is not canceled
- Hope is not canceled

Zoom Pics



The team testing Zoom before our first service



Some of the participants in our first Zoom service
—Photos by Max Coopwood

**Per the recommendation of
World Headquarters, the Rocky
Mountain Mission Center will be
canceling the following 2020
summer events
due to the ongoing concerns
with COVID-19.**

**June 4-7 Big Spruce Junior Camp
June 7-13 Big Spruce Jr. & Sr. High Camp
June 14-17 Paradise Junior Camp
June 14-20 Paradise Jr. High Camp
June 19-21 Women's Retreat @ Big Spruce
June 26-28 Paradise Fellowship Camp
July 18-25 Spectacular @ Graceland**

**The below events are still under
review and have not yet been
canceled. More information will
be provided as it becomes
available.**

**July 4-11 Big Spruce Reunion
July 29-Aug. 2 Rockies Family Camp
Aug. 21-23 Western Slope Retreat**

Adventurer's Reunion Update

The Adventurer's Reunion has been moved to July 31-Aug. 6, YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, CO. Please register if you plan to attend. All registrations must be received by June 1, 2020. Please go to www.centralmission.org/adventurer today and select the entire time or the days you can attend.

***If this event ends up being canceled, you can be assured that your registration fees will be returned to you or it can be applied to the summer of 2021 Adventurer's Reunion.