

**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



August 2020

For everyone born, a place at the table

## "Being Peaceful Change"

### Richard Rohr's Daily Meditation

Look with the Eyes of Compassion  
Wednesday, July 29, 2020

*The Buddhist monk, Thich Nhat Hanh (born 1926,) is one of the world's most influential spiritual teachers. During the Vietnam War, his work for peace brought him into friendship with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Thomas Merton, and other Christians who shared his belief that peace must be who we are, not just something we demand. Thich Nhat Hanh teaches:*

This capacity of waking up, of being aware of what is going on in your feelings, in your body, in your perceptions, in the world, is called Buddha nature, the capacity of understanding and loving. . . . It is with our capacity of smiling, breathing, and being peace that we can make peace.

Many of us worry about the world situation. We don't know when the bombs will explode. We feel that we are on the edge of time. As individuals, we feel helpless, despairing. The situation is so dangerous, injustice is so widespread, the danger is so close. In this kind of situation, if we panic, things will only become worse. We need to remain calm, to see clearly. Meditation is to be aware, and to try to help.

I like to use the example of a small boat crossing the Gulf of Siam. In Vietnam, there are many people, called boat people, who leave the country in small boats. Often the boats are caught in rough seas or storms, the people may panic, and boats can sink. But if even one person aboard can remain calm, lucid, knowing what to do and what not to do. He or she can help the boat survive. His or her expression—face, voice—communicates clarity and calmness, and people have trust in that person. They will listen to what he or she says. One such person can save the lives of many.

Our world is something like a small boat. Compared with the cosmos, our planet is a very small boat. We are about to panic, because our situation is no better than the situation of the small boat in the sea. . . . Humankind has become a very dangerous species. We need people who can sit still and be able to smile, who can walk peacefully. We need people like that in order to save us. Mahayana Buddhism says that you are that person. . . .

The root-word "budh" means to wake up, to know, to understand. A person who wakes up and understands is called a Buddha. It is as simple as that. The capacity to wake up, to understand, and to love is called Buddha nature. [Christians would call this Christ nature, the Christ self, or the mind of Christ.] . . .

When you understand, you cannot help but love. . . . To develop understanding, you have to practice looking at all living beings with the eyes of compassion. When you understand, you love. And when you love, you naturally act in a way that can relieve the suffering of people.



## A Novel Bunch

**No more meetings until the fall.**

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### Online Zoom Worship Services

We will continue to have Sunday morning worship services online via Zoom through at least September 1, 2020, due to the current COVID-19 environment. If you are having trouble connecting or gaining access to these online services, please call Gary Chatburn for assistance. If your computer hardware is not adequate, you can talk to Gary about that, too, and he can check on possible solutions for you.

These Zoom services are beneficial in keeping us connected during this time of separation. So, if you have not joined with us for an online worship service, we would encourage you to do so and get reconnected to your congregation. Also, you will most likely meet new friends from other parts of the United States that have been joining us for worship.

### Contributions during Facilities Closure:

Contributions have been stable since we have been separated due to COVID-19 restrictions. At the same time, too, our expenses have been level and close to what we have anticipated. Please continue to send your offerings and contributions to Ruth and Gary Chatburn, congregation financial officers, to be processed into the accounts that you designate. The congregation has been good in its Disciples' Generous Response. As always, should you have any questions, please feel free to contact either Ruth or Gary.

## August Birthdays



Madie Birks	08/15
Kurt Remmenga	08/16
Keenan Fronapfel	08/19
John Garner	08/20
Sierra Bridwell-Deshner	08/26
Ken Jones	08/26
Allister Garner	08/26



## Speakers, Planners, Keyboard, Greeters, and Nursery (All on ZOOM for August)

### Speakers

- ❖ Aug. 2:
- ❖ Aug. 9: Gil Pagat
- ❖ Aug. 16: Barb Gardner
- ❖ Aug. 23: James Speer
- ❖ Aug. 30:

### Planners

- ❖ Aug. 2: Bettie Miller
- ❖ Aug. 9: Danise Remmenga
- ❖ Aug. 16: Debbie Jones
- ❖ Aug. 23: Debbie Jones
- ❖ Aug. 30: Deb Friesz

**Second-Sunday Social  
for August  
is canceled.  
No picnic this year**

And you thought self-isolation and social distancing was getting to you?



## August Calendar



Check the website:

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

- Aug. 2: 10:30 a.m. ZOOM Worship Service  
Communion Sunday  
**First-Sunday Giving**
- Aug. 5: 6:00 p.m. ZOOM Leadership Council Meeting
- Aug. 9: 10:30 a.m. ZOOM Worship Service  
**Second-Sunday Offering**  
Second-Sunday Social is canceled.
- Aug. 16: 10:30 a.m. ZOOM Worship Service  
(Communicator items due.)
- Aug. 23: 10:30 a.m. ZOOM Worship Service
- Aug. 30: 10:30 a.m. ZOOM Worship Service

## Zoom and Avaya Space and other aps

Watch for weekly emails to see what services are available online and how to connect to them.

## Music and Ministry



*By Jan Kraybill, organist-in-residence,  
Community of Christ Headquarters*

When I was 3 years old, my parents bought a used, upright piano. I remember clearly the day it arrived: I thought the wood of its finish was the most beautiful thing I'd ever seen. I couldn't wait to hear what it sounded like! But Mom was very clear: This was not a toy or just another piece of furniture. She told me I was not to touch it until she showed me how.

That first lesson from Mom a few days later set me on my musician's journey, for which I am eternally grateful.

Many years later, just months after I became principal organist for Community of Christ, my dad, also an important part of my musical journey, died from a heart attack. At the meal in the church basement following Dad's funeral

service, a person I'd never met introduced herself. Shirley Emigh, from a nearby town in western Kansas, had been asked to bring the support and condolences of my new friends at International Headquarters, hundreds of miles away. I was so moved by that loving gesture.

As Shirley and I talked, she said my maiden name sounded familiar. We went through our backgrounds, looking for common threads. Nothing seemed to mesh.

After a bit more conversation, Shirley suddenly asked if Dad had a distinctive signature. A strange question—unless you knew Dad. When he signed his name, it was a work of art. We kids used to say it could take him 20 minutes just to sign a check.

Shirley said she remembered, a long time back, selling a piano to a guy who had a very distinctive signature. It soon became clear: It was her piano that had formed the foundation for my musical education.

I have always believed that talents are God-given, and this experience made it clear that God had set me on a path much earlier than I'd ever imagined.

When I first was asked about writing this piece, COVID-19 was an unfamiliar term, and I was continuing on my musical journey as a busy traveling concert musician, church organist, and organ conservator. But this virus has drastically changed all of our journeys. We were faced with challenges unimagined a few months ago. But by the grace of God, on the other side of this global crisis, perhaps we all will have grown in ways we can't imagine now.

What I know for sure: Music remains important to us. I've watched people turn to music during this crisis for entertainment, distraction, background, inspiration, faith, and connection. Music is still important to me, too. Without calendar commitments to direct my time toward practice and planning, I've felt the strong urge to make music anyway.

The intersection of music and ministry has always been strong for me, whether I'm playing for a worship service or a secular concert. During my preparations, I say the same simple prayer: I ask God to grant that I will be a window for someone to glimpse the Divine through the music I offer.

The connection to spiritual concepts can be very specific. When I prepare the musical meditation that is part of Daily Prayer for Peace services at the Temple in Independence, Missouri, I have made it a spiritual discipline to practice improvisation skills, rather than printed music. Then, during the service, I listen closely to the prayers offered. For the musical meditation I offer an improvisation on the congregational hymn we've just sung together. To conclude the piece, I weave in the final phrase of "Let There Be Peace on Earth": "...and let it begin with me."

It's my musical ministry in those moments to remind us all that we each have the choice of whether our next actions help bring about the peace we seek in prayer.

I treasure these moments when music and ministry intersect. When the COVID-19 crisis ends and I'm able to make music in public again, I'll treasure these moments all the 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