

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



Fort Collins, Colorado

A Welcoming Congregation



September 2020

For everyone born, a place at the table

"God's Dream for Creation"

Richard Rohr's Daily Meditation

Wednesday, August 26, 2020

In times of disorder and deconstruction, we long for Reorder on a personal level—to be made new and whole again. But the Scriptures tell us that restoration will also happen on a communal, planetary, and even universal level! Jim Antal, a climate justice leader with the United Church of Christ, reminds us of our ability and responsibility to participate with God in the renewal and reordering of the earth.

"How can you know all these facts [about climate change] and still have hope?" For me, faith and hope are rooted in the conviction that, regardless of how bad things may be, a new story is waiting to take hold—something we have not yet seen or felt or experienced. . . . God is calling us—as individuals and congregations—to work with God and others to champion that new story.

For the vast majority in our society, that new story remains unseen. Wrestling our future from the grip of fossil fuel seems impossible—our addiction is too strong, affordable options are too few, and the powers that defend the status quo are mighty, indeed. . . . We cannot be freed

by chipping away at this millstone. We must begin to live into a new story by changing the human prospect [of destruction] and restoring creation's viability.

That's what the Water Protectors of Standing Rock, North Dakota, have done. Their courageous, unflinching discipline inspired thousands to join them and millions to imagine with them the new world that is waiting to be born. They prepared themselves through prayer and ritual to face down sheriffs, paramilitary contractors, attack dogs, rubber bullets, pepper spray, and high-pressure water cannons in subzero temperatures. They were fueled by hope, hope for a revolution rooted in love—love for God's great gift of creation. . . .

We can't accept God's invitation to help create a new story unless we are willing to take action. We become partners with God when we act in unfamiliar, untested ways. Those new actions will be guided by a preferred future that embraces:

- resilience in place of growth
- collaboration in place of consumption
- wisdom in place of progress
- balance in place of addiction
- moderation in place of excess
- vision in place of convenience
- accountability in place of disregard
- self-giving love in place of self-centered fear

As broken-hearted as God must be over what we have done to the gift of creation, God still has a dream. . . . God dreams that humans seek spiritual rather than material progress. God's dream envisions a just world at peace, because gratitude has dissolved anxiety and generosity has eclipsed greed. God dreams of a time when love and mutual respect will bind humanity together, and the profound beauty of creation will be treasured. Let us embrace God's dream as our own. Suddenly, the horizon of our hope comes nearer. As we live into God's dream, we will rediscover who we truly are, and all of creation will be singing.

any questions, please feel free to contact either Ruth or Gary.



A Novel Bunch

No more meetings until further notification.

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September Birthdays



Felicia Bridwell-Deshner	9/9
Donna Clark	9/11
Gabriel Pagat	9/15
Shawnea Pagat	9/15
Deb Friesz	9/19
Kathy Graybill	9/22
Tom Beck	9/23
Hannah Crawford	9/24
Jan Newman	9/25
Joy Cunningham	9/30

Online Zoom Worship Services

We will continue to have Sunday morning worship services online via Zoom through at least December 27, 2020, due to the current COVID-19 environment. As conditions change, this will be reevaluated. 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



Speakers, Planners, Keyboard, Greeters, and Nursery

(All on ZOOM for September)

Speakers

- ❖ Sep. 6: Dave Simons
- ❖ Sep. 13:
- ❖ Sep. 20: Debbie Jones
- ❖ Sep. 27:

Planners

- ❖ Sep. 6: Donna Clark
- ❖ Sep. 13: Marilyn Garner
- ❖ Sep. 20: Kay Bunch
- ❖ Sep. 27: Ruth Chatburn

September Calendar



Check the website:

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

- Sep. 2: 6:00 p.m. ZOOM Leadership Council Meeting
- Sep. 6: 10:30 a.m. ZOOM Worship Service
Communion Sunday
First-Sunday Giving
- Sep. 13: 10:30 a.m. ZOOM Worship Service
Second-Sunday Offering
No Second-Sunday Social
- Sep. 20: 10:30 a.m. ZOOM Worship Service
(Communicator items due)
- Sep. 27: 10:30 a.m. ZOOM Worship Service
Congregation business meeting

Zoom, Avaya Space and other Aps

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

Congregation Business Meeting

The Leadership Council took action at their meeting on August 5 to set a date for a congregation business meeting. That date is Sunday, September 27. We will have to do it on ZOOM, so Gary Chatburn will be working on that.

The items of business to cover will be:

1. Voting on mission center conference delegates. The 2020 RMMC conference is scheduled for Friday, November 6, to Sunday, November 8. It will probably need to be held online.

If you would like to be considered as a delegate, please notify Rich Kohlman.

We are allotted 3 delegates this year.

2. Voting on Congregational Generosity Funding for the RMMC for 2021. The Leadership Council recommends the same amount as the current year, \$4,320.
3. Electing a pastor.
4. Sustaining the CFO, recorder, and historian.



Not Everything Is Canceled

Beauty is not canceled
Sunshine is not canceled
Fall 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