

**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.



December 2018

Communicator

A monthly newsletter of



Community of Christ



Fort Collins, Colorado

A Welcoming Congregation

For everyone born, a place at the table

Trumpet Sounds

—Rich Kohlman



The Chorus from the
Messiah that precedes
I Tell You a Mystery,
and *The Trumpet Shall
Sound* provides us

wisdom in this season of Advent. The words come from I Corinthians 15:21,22. "Since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive."

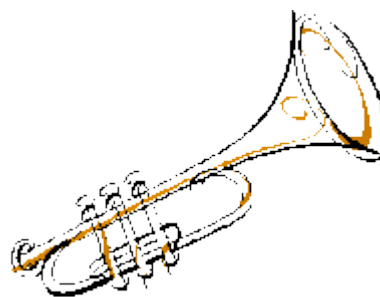
Wayne Muller in his book *Sabbath: Restoring the Sacred Rhythm of Rest*, shares this insight from Brother David Steindl-Rast. "The Chinese pictograph for 'busy' is composed of two characters: heart and killing." So, in a real way, we humans, by the choices we make in the way we live our lives, beyond even heart attack, kill ourselves. Not only our bodies, but our emotions and our spirits as well. Truly, by mankind comes death!

Likewise, when we change the way we live, when we spend time in the presence of God, we begin to make choices that bring us new life, even a

resurrection of our emotions and our spirits and our tired bodies. When we allow the Christ, incarnate in us, to find root in the soil of our lives, then when the trumpet sounds, the dead in us is truly resurrected, not in a next life, but now, in this life. Truly, by mankind incarnate comes also a resurrection!

Ezekiel saw a vision of the valley of dry bones (Chapter 37). When the bones were spoken to and God said, "I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live," it was so. So also, God would breathe into our dry bones, our dry spirits, and give us new life.

As we continue our journey of celebration, remembering the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ, may we not miss the trumpets deep in our souls that will cause us to breathe in the new life that the birth of Christ has promised to us. And we shall be born again.



12-Cents-a-Meal



To the loving and generous members of our congregation:

The focus of our worship on October 14 was to bring the congregation's attention to an outreach opportunity to help feed orphaned African children. Some years ago Dr. Sheri Kirkpatrick introduced the work of HealthEdConnect, a nonprofit which she and her husband Jac created to address the plight of children in Zambia and Malawi who had been orphaned as a result of both parents having succumbed to HIV. HEC has now built three schools, which daily provide a noon meal to the 1,200 school children at a cost of 12 cents per individual meal.

We are inviting members of our congregation to consider gathering funds to feed the 1,200 children for one week. Our goal is \$720 for those 6,000 meals. To date, we have received funds to provide for 2,200 meals. It would be especially significant if our children here would reach out to those children as a show of love.

A jar is provided in which to put these funds. We will continue this campaign through the Christmas season. Please note this is not in competition with our 2-Cents-a-Meal offerings that stay here locally with Faith Family Hospitality. The 12-Cents-a-Meal offering would be for World Outreach Ministries.

Thanks for your show of interest and concern.
Rick and Kay Bunch

Hanging of the Greens



Our annual Hanging of the Greens Party will be **Saturday, December 1, at 10:00 a.m.** Please come and share as the community decorates the sanctuary for the

Christmas season. A light lunch will be provided.

December 2018 Communicator

Second-Sunday Social



Christmas Party, Sunday, December 9, 4:30 p.m. It will be a POTLUCK. We will start with a game, eat, and then have a few Christmas stories and readings—then more games. There will be prizes for some of the games. Please bring your own table service.

December Calendar



Check the website:

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

- Dec. 1: **Hanging of the Greens, 10:00 a.m.**
- Dec. 2: Adult Class, 9:30 a.m.
Worship, 10:30 a.m.
Communion Sunday
First-Sunday Giving
- Dec. 5: Worship Coordinators, 3:30 p.m.
Leadership Council, 4:00 p.m.
- Dec. 9: Adult Class, 9:30 a.m.
Worship, 10:30 a.m.
Children's Classes
Second-Sunday Offering
Second-Sunday Social, 4:30 p.m.
- Dec. 13: Take-Away Lunch volunteers at Murphy Center, 10:00–noon
- Dec. 20: Book Club, 2:00 p.m., at Ruth Chatburn's home
- Dec. 16: Adult Class, 9:30 a.m.
Worship, 10:30 a.m.
Communicator items due
- Dec. 22: Saturday Morning Homeless Breakfast
(All are welcome to come by and help.)
- Dec. 23: Adult Class, 9:30 a.m.
Worship, 10:30 a.m.
Children's Classes
- Dec. 25: **CHRISTMAS DAY**
- Dec. 30: Adult Class, 9:30 a.m.
Worship, 10:30 a.m.

December Birthdays



Marilyn Garner	12/2
Karla Bencomo	12/4
Julie Wallis	12/7
Pat Miner	12/16
Michael Davis	12/16
Ilan Levy	12/16
Juliette Garner	12/17
Kathy Bridwell	12/20
Bill Miner	12/22
Hawkins Garner	12/22
Carrie Levy	12/23
Melanie Fronapfel	12/28
Nona Woelfle	12/29

Financial Report



October Income

World Church

Use where needed most	\$2,065.00
Abolish Poverty/End Suffering	196.00
Total	\$2,261.00

Local

Local Operating	\$3,204.97
Building Fund	650.00
Two-Cents-a-Meal	43.15
Family Assistance	20.00
Youth Fund	1.00
Narcotics Anonymous Pledge	75.00
Mission Center Related Funds	20.00
Total	\$4,014.12

—Gary and Ruth Chatburn, CFO

Fort Collins Congregation Operating Offerings 2018 Disciples' Generous Response

Month	Total World Operating	Local Operating	Total Operating Giving
January	2,574.04	3,033.55	5,607.59
February	2,584.95	2,650.39	5,235.34
March	2,667.00	3,309.30	5,976.30
April	3,030.74	3,364.31	6,395.05
May	2,618.00	4,093.00	6,711.00
June	3,523.00	2,920.00	6,443.00
July	2,734.00	3,002.11	5,736.11
August	2,590.55	2,772.00	5,362.55
September	2,956.00	2,726.00	5,682.00
October	2,261.00	3,204.97	5,465.97
November			-
December			-
TOTALS	\$ 27,539.28	\$ 31,075.63	\$ 58,614.91
Balance	47%	53%	

BOOK CLUB For December



DATE: Thursday, December 20
TIME: 2:00 p.m.
PLACE: Ruth Chatburn's home
BOOK: Please come prepared to share a favorite story, poem, or favorite Christmas memory in place of our usual book review and discussion.

BRING: 3-4 dozen of your favorite Christmas cookie. We will enjoy them for our snack, and then participate in a cookie exchange.



Speakers, Planners, Keyboard, Greeters, and Nursery

Speakers

- ❖ Dec. 2: Stephanie Gustave
- ❖ Dec. 9: David Nii
- ❖ Dec. 16: Sharon Troyer
- ❖ Dec. 23: Gil Pagat
- ❖ Dec. 30: Shirley Remmenga

Planners

- ❖ Dec. 2: Dave Simons
- ❖ Dec. 9: Jean Newman
- ❖ Dec. 16: Mary Kohlman
- ❖ Dec. 23: Nancy Miller
- ❖ Dec. 30: Nancy Miller

Keyboard

- ❖ Dec. 2: Sharon Troyer
- ❖ Dec. 9: Kay Bunch
- ❖ Dec. 16: Stephanie Gustave
- ❖ Dec. 23: Deb Friesz
- ❖ Dec. 30: Jean Newman

Greeters

- ❖ December: Marilyn Garner, Shirley Remmenga, and Paul Urioste

Nursery

- ❖ Dec. 2: Marilyn Garner
- ❖ Dec. 9: Gary Chatburn
- ❖ Dec. 16: Marta Remmenga
- ❖ Dec. 23: Sharon Fulton
- ❖ Dec. 30: Pat Miner

From Your Facilities Management Team

City of Fort Collins Seasonal Overflow

Shelter: The City of Fort Collins Seasonal Overflow Shelter for persons without homes began operation on Thursday, November 1, 2018. The shelter has housed 18–22 women during the nighttime hours thus far. Men are being sheltered at Catholic Charities and the Rescue Mission this year.

Potential Projects in the Works: The Facilities Management Team will be meeting in the near future to review and prioritize potential projects for 2019. Projects of interest include building interior lighting (sanctuary, classroom, hallway, etc.), building exterior lighting (replacement and additional), air-conditioning systems (replacement and additional), air duct cleaning, and building security. Contractors for the various disciplines have been contacted for project scope and estimates. While no capital funds were expended during 2018 due to various unforeseen circumstances, we hope to be able to begin implementing projects in the first quarter of 2019 that will benefit and enhance the life of the congregation.

Lending a Hand: Members of our congregation have many talents. The facility in which we congregate has several items that need to be taken care of but do not require a contractor to complete. If you see something that you feel that you can handle, please check with Gary Chatburn before taking on the task to make sure that someone else is not already planning to work on the same task. We would like to avoid duplicated efforts and use our volunteer resources efficiently.

Also, if you would like to help with tasks in and around our facility, but don't know where to start or know what might need to be done, please contact Bob Fulton or Gary Chatburn. They will be able to provide assistance and direction. Together, we can accomplish many things.

Notes from the CFO's Desk

Contribution Receipts: Contribution receipts for offerings received during the 3rd quarter of this year have been distributed. If you have any questions after receiving your receipt, please contact Ruth Chatburn.

2019 Congregational Budget: The Leadership Council has made its first review of the 2019

proposed budget. The budget in its current form is an unbalanced budget. This means if no additional budget reductions can be found, it will be necessary to draw funds from our operating reserves in order to meet anticipated 2019 expenses.

2019 Narcotics Anonymous Pledge Support Fund: We will once again need to receive pledge funding in support of Narcotics Anonymous meeting in our facility. The pledge support for 2019 will be the same as 2018, \$1,800.00. Your generosity this year in support of Narcotics Anonymous' mission has been greatly appreciated.

2019 World Conference Website

The 2019 World Conference will be held 5–13 April at the Community of Christ International Headquarters in Independence, Missouri, USA. You can find information about the conference including an overview of the week, draft schedule, resolutions that will be discussed, and preparation materials online at the World Conference website. As planning and preparation continues, more information will be added. Learn more at www.CofChrist.org/2019-world-conference, and make plans to attend this worldwide event!

Download Community of Christ App

Download the Community of Christ app for Android and iOS devices from *Google Play* and the *App Store on iTunes*. With the Community of Christ app, you can read daily spiritual devotions, watch inspiring videos, stay in touch with mission happening around the world, and much more!

New Sacrament Videos Available Online

The simple beauty of Community of Christ's sacraments is featured in a series of videos now available for viewing on www.CofChrist.org.

The series was designed for training priesthood members, but the brief, inspirational videos will appeal to anyone with an interest in the church. We thank all involved in producing these videos. They are available in English, French, and Spanish.

The sacraments portrayed are baptism, confirmation, The Lord's Supper (Communion), marriage, blessing of children, laying on of hands for the sick, and ordination. The sacrament of evangelist blessing has a series of five videos that continue to be available from the Order of Evangelists.

Community of Christ affirms the common elements of creation—reflected in the sacraments—to bless human life and to renew and form the church to seek the peaceful kingdom of God. The videos:

- Baptism
- Confirmation
- The Lord's Supper (Communion)
- Ordination
- Blessing of Children
- Laying on of Hands for the Sick
- Marriage
- Evangelist Blessing video series