

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

For everyone born, a place at the table



December 2019

"Creative Cures for the Common Christmas"

by Shane Claiborne as shared in the Sojourner's Blog for Tuesday, December 11, 2007

"A few years ago I remember a pastor friend telling me they tried something a little different for their Christmas services. Instead of the usual holiday décor and clutter of the sanctuary, they brought in a bunch of manure and hay and scattered it under the pews so the place would really smell like the stank manger where it all began. I remember laughing



hysterically as he described everyone coming in, in all their best Christmas attire, only to sit in the rank smell of a barn. They even brought a donkey in

during the opening of the service that dropped a special gift as it mosed down the aisle. Folks looked awkwardly at each other, and then busted out laughing. It was one of the most memorable services they've ever had. Certainly folks came face to face with the 'reason for the season' and the reality of what it must have been like for the Savior of the universe to enter the world, far from the shopping malls, as a refugee who found no room in the inn.

"Imagination.

"That's what our Church and our world seem to be so hungry for—that 'renewing of the mind' that will allow us not to 'conform to the patterns of the world' as Romans says. I am

incredibly hopeful this Advent, because there are so many signs of Christians who are longing for new ways to celebrate our Savior that are not cluttered with the noise of shopping and infected with the myth that happiness must be purchased."

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—Following reflection by Rich Kohlman

Every Christmas, lately, I must admit I want to do Christmas differently, but have trouble

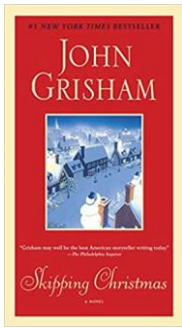


overcoming the societal pressure to make Christmas all about consuming gifts rather than to be more aware of the gift of the Christ Child and what that gift really

means to our world. Probably, because the house is more empty these days, I have more time to think. Parents have gone on, children have moved, grandchildren are far away in Brazil. What really is all the hustle and bustle about? I'm not ready to give up the tradition of the sharing of gifts, but recognize there is indeed a smell of the stable that has seeped into the way society celebrates and not the way the sacred calls for us to celebrate.

My prayer is that we may all have a greater sense of the sacred, divine celebration that we are reminded of this time of year. May we find an appropriate balance of giving and receiving the gift of Christ.





A Novel Bunch December Meeting

Date: December 19
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Host: Jean Newman
Book: *Skipping Christmas* by John Grisham (Discussion leader, Shari Smith)

December Calendar



Check the website:

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

- Dec. 1: 9:15 a.m. Youth Choir Practice
9:30 a.m. Adult Class
10:30 a.m. Worship
Communion Sunday
First-Sunday Giving
- Dec. 2: 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice
- Dec. 4: Worship Coordinators, 5:30 p.m.
Leadership Council, 6:00 p.m.
- Dec. 8: 9:15 a.m. Youth Choir Practice
9:30 a.m. Adult Class
10:30 a.m. Worship
Second-Sunday Offering
Youth and Children's Classes
5:00 p.m. **Second-Sunday Social—
Holiday Dinner**
- Dec. 9: Choir Practice
- Dec. 12: Take-Away Lunch volunteers at
Murphy Center, 10:00–noon
- Dec. 15: 9:15 a.m. Youth Choir Practice
9:30 a.m. Adult Class
10:30 a.m. Worship
Communicator items due.
- Dec. 16: Choir Practice
- Dec. 19: 2:00 p.m., A Novel Bunch meets
- Dec. 22: 9:30 a.m. Adult Class
10:30 a.m. Worship
Youth and Children's Classes
- Dec. 25: **CHRISTMAS DAY**
- Dec. 28: Saturday Morning Homeless Breakfast
- Dec. 29: 9:30 a.m. Adult Class,
10:30 a.m. Worship

Second-Sunday Social for December Holiday Dinner



The annual Holiday dinner will be our Second-Sunday Social for December on December 8 at 5:00

p.m. We'll have the traditional Turkey and fixings and will be asking for desserts from the congregation. Look for the Signup genius email soon so you can volunteer and RSVP. Lots of help will be needed. Contact Nancy Miller to see what jobs are available.

We will have carol singing, Christmas games, and prizes as well. Come and celebrate with us.

From Your Facilities Management Team

Landscape Team: Our facility is in need of having its surrounding landscape upgraded. We have been looking for 4–5 individuals to staff this team and begin working on a plan to begin beautifying our property landscaping at the start of spring in 2020. *So far, only one person has committed to being a part of this team.* If you would like to participate on the Landscape Team, please contact Gary or Ruth Chatburn.

What Do You See? Have You Seen Anything Yet? When you come to church for services, meetings, and events, what do you see when you approach our building? When you enter the church foyer, sanctuary, classrooms, Fellowship Hall, Activity Center, etc., what do you see? What do other people think when they see our facility from the outside and then come inside for the first time? Is it something that would cause them to feel at home and want to come back again? Is it something that exemplifies our mission and our stewardship of what God has entrusted to us? Sometimes we see things for a long time and they eventually become the norm when maybe they should not be. So, when you come to church for services,

meetings, events, etc., ask yourself if what you are seeing is really what you want to see. Does it cause you to want to enter the church and find out what is taking place within its walls? Once you have entered, does the facility make you feel welcomed and cause you to want to engage in conversations with the people and join with them in worship? We realize that you cannot necessarily tell a “book by its cover,” but a lot of people start with the cover. If you have observations and/or suggestions for improving our facilities, big or small, please pass them onto Gary Chatburn. *To date, there has been no feedback, one way or the other, on this subject.*

Food Bank and Murphy Center Donations

It has been our practice for a number of years to receive food donations for the Food Bank and for the Murphy Center Lunch-Bag program. Generally, the Food Bank Donations are part of our First-Sunday Giving, and the Murphy Center donations are received at any time. Please remember these opportunities to share generously for the good of our community.

Large-Print Hymns

This is a reminder that we have the availability of light-weight, large-print binders of the hymns for the current Sunday. They are available at the usher’s stand in the foyer every Sunday.

Financial Report



Fort Collins Congregation Operating Offerings 2019 Disciples’ Generous Response

Month	Total World Operating	Local Operating	Total Operating Giving
January	2,427.00	2,974.22	5,401.22
February	2,584.00	4,670.00	7,254.00
March	2,982.00	3,562.00	6,544.00
April	1,809.00	3,565.00	5,374.00
May	2,840.00	3,670.52	6,510.52
June	2,822.50	3,274.25	6,096.75
July	2,186.50	2,255.74	4,442.24
August	2,186.50	3,813.05	5,999.55
September	3,111.00	2,757.35	5,868.35
October			-
November			-
December			-
TOTALS	\$ 22,948.50	\$ 30,542.13	\$ 53,490.63
Balance	43%	57%	

December Birthdays



Robin Sylvester	12/1
Marilyn Garner	12/2
Karla Bencomo	12/4
Sondee Speer	12/4
Aspen Crawford	12/5
Michael Davis	12/16
Ilan Levy	12/16
Pat Miner	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
Goddy Chungag	12/28
Nona Woelfle	12/29



Speakers, Planners, Keyboard, Greeters, and Nursery

Speakers

- ❖ Dec. 1: Sharon Troyer
- ❖ Dec. 8: Rick Bunch
- ❖ Dec. 15: Shirley Remmenga
- ❖ Dec. 22: Rich Kohlman
- ❖ Dec. 29: James Speer

Planners

- ❖ Dec. 1: Tom Beck
- ❖ Dec. 8: Shari Smith
- ❖ Dec. 15: Stephanie Gustave
- ❖ Dec. 22: Bob Fulton
- ❖ Dec. 29: Tom Beck

Keyboard

- ❖ Dec. 1: Deb Friesz
- ❖ Dec. 8: Stephanie Gustave
- ❖ Dec. 15: Sharon Fulton
- ❖ Dec. 22: Tom Beck
- ❖ Dec. 29: Jean Newman

Greeters

- ❖ December:

Nursery

- ❖ Dec. 1: Marilyn Garner
- ❖ Dec. 8: Gary Chatburn
- ❖ Dec. 15: Marta Remmenga
- ❖ Dec. 22: Sharon Fulton
- ❖ Dec. 29: Pat Miner

Seasonal Overflow Shelter

Our seasonal overflow shelter is now operating from November 1 through April 30. It is again operated by Catholic Charities and utilizes our Activity Center. It will serve only women again this year. It will operate seven days a week depending on need.

2020 Church Directory



Jon Mendenhall is beginning work on the 2020 Congregation Directory. If there has been a change in your address, phone number, email, etc., please let

Jon know (jon@jonnanco.net).

Please check the following:

Names (All members of the family)

Address

Phone (Land and mobile for all members of the family)

Email addresses (For all members of the family including youth)

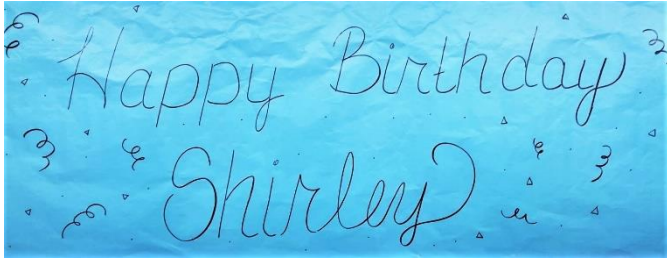
Thanks for your assistance. We want to complete this task before the end of the year.

Leadership Council Summary

Stewardship/Facilities Management Team

- a. Project summary update: Outside, lighting is done except for the big parking lot light that needs some parts. Inside, some wiring needs to be redone in replacing the educational wing lights. They will be panels for better coverage.
- b. A new fiberglass door will replace the one just off the rostrum on the east side of the church.
- c. Sanctuary doors will hopefully be replaced in January.
- d. We need to install fencing around the new AC units. It will be seven feet tall and see-through.
- e. We now have two volunteers to help plan the landscaping for the spring.
- f. We are working on fixing the sign out front on the corner, which is currently not working.

Shirley Remmenga's 90th Birthday Party



Congratulations!



Congratulations to Jeremy Kohlman, son of Rich and Mary Kohlman, recipient of the International Association of Medical Transportation Communication Specialists Communicator of the Year Award for 2019.

To qualify for the award, the nominee must have a minimum of one year of experience in the communications center, demonstrate enthusiasm and competence in all aspects of the duties required in their communications center. The nominee must be in good standing at their place of employment and consistently promote safe practices in the communications center. This person must promote and exemplify professionalism, dedication, and a desire to continuously improve on their communication skills.

While specific descriptions of unexpected, unusual situations in which a Communications Specialist goes above and beyond may be submitted, please remember that the Communicator of the Year committee is looking for the Communication Specialist who consistently goes above and beyond in their normal day-to-day duties. This person must be willing to go the extra mile each and every day.