

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



December 2020

For everyone born, a place at the table

“The Trumpet Shall Sound”

And we shall be changed!

By Rich Kohlman



My favorite recitative and air of the *Messiah* is by the bass and the trumpet, *Behold, I Tell You a Mystery* and *The Trumpet Shall Sound*. I can hardly wait for these numbers that come near the end of the performance. I can play these two pieces over and over and over. There is something about that trumpet that lifts me up when I am down and lifts me higher when I am up. As the trumpet goes up the scale so does my heart soar, and I believe that I can indeed be changed. What *mystery* there is in this promise! It doesn't make me incorruptible, as the words continue, and it is not about a final resurrection of immortality, as the sound penetrates my carefully built walls of invulnerability to grace. It is more about the present than the end for me.

It is an experience about that everyday resurrection and presence of God that is available to each of us as we spend time with God in our spiritual disciplines. I believe there is a trumpet, deep in the soul of us, and that trumpet calls forth the very presence of God incarnate in us that seeks to mold our lives into the creature God would have us be. Sometimes we can't hear it because of all the cacophony of other distractions in our lives. In silence, however, there is no uncertain sound, and we are pierced through and through. We are changed into more whole or holy spiritual beings of creation.

As you celebrate the birth of Christ this Christmas season, amidst the various activities that claim your attention and time, may you hear the trumpet of your soul and be changed!



Online Zoom Worship Services

Our Sunday morning online worship services via Zoom have provided us with the means to stay in touch with each other and to worship together during this time of COVID-19. We miss the in-person togetherness, but we can still connect thru our Zoom worship services and other meetings. If you are not attending our Zoom services, we want you to know that we miss your attendance. 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, as well as old friends, from other parts of the United States that have been joining us for worship. At the end of our services there is time to share and chat with each other about what is going on in our lives as well as to share joys and concerns.

If you are having trouble connecting or gaining access to these online services, please call Gary Chatburn for assistance. If you do not have computer or phone devices, or your computer hardware and other devices are not adequate, you can talk to Gary and he can check on possible solutions for you. We want to be able to include everyone in our congregational worship and activities.

From Your Facilities Management Team

Seasonal Overnight Shelter: The City of Fort Collins has elected to not use our facility this year for the Seasonal Overnight Shelter. The city has leased vacant space in the Larimer County Food Bank facility for this purpose.

Building Projects: All building projects have been placed on hold until further notice. With the COVID-19 pandemic and other factors, it was determined that it would be wise not to

proceed with any major projects, unless absolutely necessary, until it can be determined how we will be functioning as a congregation after the pandemic.

Maintenance of Church Facilities: Several building maintenance items have been recently completed: (1) The Activity Center floor carpet was cleaned. (2) The basement vinyl tile floor was scrubbed, recoated with wax, and buffed. (3) The Activity Center elevator and the foyer elevator were placed under a new contract with a new service provider. The first maintenance visit occurred a few weeks ago. The two elevators are due for state inspections in November. (4) The building furnaces were recently checked for proper operation with no issues found. Since the building is currently unoccupied, thermostats have been set to maintain sufficient heat for various areas of the building while trying to reduce utilities cost during the winter months.

Notes from the CFO's Desk

Contribution Receipts: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and not meeting in-person, we have not issued contribution receipts for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd quarters of this year. We will, however, be mailing year-end contribution receipts for the complete 2020 year to you by February 1, 2021. If you have any questions before then about your contributions, please contact Ruth Chatburn (970-833-0570) so she can assist you.

Contributions during the Continued Closure of Our Facilities: Contributions have remained fairly stable with a slight dropping off in contributions the last couple of months. We are doing our best to minimize as much expense as possible and remain within our budgets. We want to thank everyone for their continued financial support and let you know that we are very appreciative of the funds that are received each month. Please continue to send your offerings and contributions to Ruth and Gary Chatburn, congregation financial officers, so that your "Disciples' Generous

Response” can be processed into the accounts that you designate.

Also remember that **cash offerings** like the **Second-Sunday Offering** are not being received as normally, so you might want to add that to the offerings you are sending to Ruth and Gary.



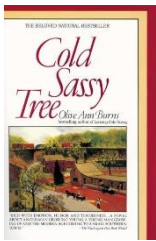
Speakers, Planners, Keyboard, Greeters, and Nursery (All on ZOOM for December)

Speakers

- ❖ Dec. 6: Rich Kohlman
- ❖ Dec. 13: No Service
- ❖ Dec. 20: James Speer
- ❖ Dec. 27: Sharing Service

Planners

- ❖ Dec. 6: Bettie Miller
- ❖ Dec. 13: No Service
- ❖ Dec. 20: TBD
- ❖ Dec. 27: Deb Friesz and Shirley Remmenga



A Novel Bunch

Date: December 17

Time: 2:00 p.m. on ZOOM.

Book: *Cold Sassy Tree* by Olive Ann Burns

December Birthdays



Robin Sylvester	12/1
Marilyn Garner	12/2
Karla Bencomo	12/4
Sondee Speer	12/4
Julie Wallis	12/7
Aspen Crawford	12/15
Ilan Levy	12/16
Carnie Fulton	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
Nona Woelfle	12/29

December Calendar



Check the website:

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

- Dec. 2: 6:00 p.m. ZOOM Leadership Council Meeting
- Dec. 6: 10:30 a.m. ZOOM Worship Service
Communion Sunday
First-Sunday Giving
- Dec. 9: 7:00 p.m. **Budget review session for the congregation on ZOOM**
- Dec. 13: 10:30 a.m. NO ZOOM Worship
Second-Sunday Offering
No Second-Sunday Social
- Dec. 17: 2:00 p.m. Novel Bunch on ZOOM
- Dec. 20: 10:30 a.m. ZOOM Worship Service
(Communicator items due)
- Dec. 27: 10:30 a.m. ZOOM Worship Service

Congregation Business Meeting

There will be a congregation business meeting immediately following a short morning worship service on **January 10**. The purpose will be to consider the congregation budget for 2021.



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*

Congregation Business Meeting Recap

November 22, 2020

At the business meeting on Sunday, September 27, the congregation approved the leadership team as follows:

Pastor Counselor: Nancy Miller
Pastor Counselor: Gil Pagat
Administrative Assistant Position:
Rich Kohlman
Auditors: Bill Miner (Term expires 12/31/21)
Marilyn Garner (Term expires 12/31/2022)
Secretary: Marta Remmenga
Co-Webmasters: Jamie Crawford and
Gary Chatburn

Pastoral Function Teams

Outreach Ministries

Rick and Kay Bunch

Worship Ministries

Team Leaders: Tom Beck and Bettie Miller

Pastoral Care Ministries

Team Leaders: Donna Clark and Dave Simons

Stewardship Ministries

Team Leaders: Gary and Ruth Chatburn

Facilities Management Team

Chair: Gary Chatburn CFO/Chair

Pastor: Stephanie Gustave

Facilities-Operation & Maintenance:

Jon Ytell

FMT Advisor: Bob Fulton
(Term expires 12/31/2023)

FMT Advisor: Gary Jones
(Term expires 12/31/23)

Fellowship Ministries:

Team Leader Marilyn Garner

Education Ministries:

Team Leader Sharon Fulton

Youth Ministries:

Team Leader Shirley Remmenga



2021 Congregation Budget

There will be a budget review session for the congregation via ZOOM on Wednesday, December 9, at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of the budget is planned for Sunday, January 10, 2021, via ZOOM.

Hello Interfaith Friends,



United Way of Larimer County has just announced its Cameron Peak Fire Response Fund. United Way of Larimer County has been asked by

County officials, Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD), and partner agencies to launch a fund for private donations for those most affected by the fire. There will be short-term and long-term impacts—unmet needs may not surface for six months. Donations are tax deductible and will be distributed to affected community members through the Cameron Peak Fire Long-Term Recovery Group.

Click here to donate or learn more.

<https://fortcollinsinterfaith.us17.list-manage.com/track/click?u=6b26634026ed2fe7fa47557ec&id=3488e72c26&e=72c05b4c7f>

Food Bank of Larimer County



Looking to help make a difference in the lives of your friends, families, and neighbors? Food Bank of Larimer County is responding to the increased hunger needs during the COVID-19 pandemic and is in need of volunteers to help them do so.

The Food Bank is currently seeking Food Share Assistants in Fort Collins and Loveland as well as Warehouse Assistants in Loveland. Please visit our volunteer page at <https://foodbanklarimer.org/volunteer/> to learn more. Feel free to contact Kimberly, Matt, or Tasha at 970-829-0157 or volunteerinfo@foodbanklarimer.org with any questions.