



Community of Christ

# The Communicator



## Celebrating Community Together!

We are delighted to **join Loveland and Greeley Community of Christ to worship together on Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup>** at La Paz at 10:30 a.m. We realize there are many lifelong friendships and historical connections between our three congregations, and we look forward to renewing old ties and making new friends. Following our morning worship that Sunday, we will share a picnic (potluck, I assume?) after which there'll be time for a family swim! Please watch for more details in Sunday bulletins between now and then, as well on our website. Would someone volunteer to coordinate carpooling for those who'd like that?

How lucky can we be in one week? The very next Friday evening at 6 p.m., July 24<sup>th</sup> is our Ft. Collins Congregational picnic again at Fossil Creek! I can't believe it will have been one full year since I arrived in Colorado. It was at last year's picnic that I met many of you for the first time. Thanks in advance for the planning being made by Sharon and Bob Fulton and Pat and Bill Miner!

And last, but definitely not least, don't forget that this August "could" be the last Family Camp at Glacier View unless there are significant positive changes in our RMMC budget. We've talked recently about the significance experiences many of us have had at family camps and reunions through the years. I know many of our lives are the richer for having attended camps at Camp Paradise, Pinecrest in Palmer Lake, at Romoca and many other places in the world. Just think how our congregation will be enriched if we can find ways for more of us to attend the Family Camp Wednesday, August 5<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, Aug. 9<sup>th</sup> at Glacier View Ranch. For those of you who haven't been there, Glacier View is a hotel-styled lodge which is very comfortable, but tent and cabin options are also available. And remember, it is located near Estes Park, in a beautiful area. Registration material available in church office and on-line.

Last year I was impressed by the creative youth program (including swimming in a great pool and making a dynamic video!), quality of worship and music for all, inspiring classes, compassionate listening and delicious meals! This year's theme, *Vulnerable to Grace*, will be made rich by gifted ministry of Jane and Bob Gardner and Terry Williams, among other outstanding staff. Let's make it a matter of prayer (then do the fundraising that could help it happen) that many of you can join us at camp this August! Hope to see you there!

Sharon Troyer, Pastor



**BE GREEN!!!!** The full color version of the communicator is available online. Please consider receiving your communicator by email to cut down printing cost and save trees.



## July Calendar

July 1<sup>st</sup> Worship Planning Meeting 7 p.m.

July 5<sup>th</sup> First Sunday Giving

July 8<sup>th</sup> Prayer Shawl Group meets at Peggy Gordier's at 1:30 p.m.

July 12<sup>th</sup> 2 cents a meal

July 16<sup>th</sup> Leadership Meeting 7 p.m.

July 17<sup>th</sup> Friday Morning Breakfast Club 9 a.m.

July 19<sup>th</sup> Worship & Picnic La Paz

July 19<sup>th</sup> Communicator Items are due

July 24<sup>th</sup> Congregational Picnic at Fossil Creek 6 p.m.

## July Birthdays



James Miller	07/01
Joan Green	07/04
Jay Ytell	07/04
Robin Higgins	07/09
Eric Bouch	07/09
Bradley Higgins	07/11
Christy Harms	07/11
Larry Slocum	07/12
Marilyn Doig	07/13
Thelma Slocum	07/17
Betty Jones	07/17
Shelton Robinson	07/19
Logan Miller	07/20
Madison Clark	07/22
Avis Varra	07/26



## We saw it in the Paper!!

Did you see the picture of Dee Cable and Luella Foster in the "You're Never Too Old" article about the Spanish class at Rigdon Farm? Dee said, "as long as your brain is active, you can learn".

Donna Palmer. 'Peanut Day' chairperson, Noontime Kiwanis Club wrote a thumbs up to the people supporting the annual Peanut Day fund Raiser.

Heather Gerdon was shown moving the road closed signs when Howe's Street was opened to two-way traffic. (Heather is Paul's wife; Paul is Pam Swackhammer Gerdon's son).

The Coloradoan announced its Excellence Award winners in athletics. They listed past winners including Nancy Miller in 1977.

Graceland University Horizons had an article on Resch Hall. "This has been an incredibly successful project", said Kurt Remmenga, whose job it has been to monitor progress on the "total makeover" of the old Platz-Mortimore Science Hall. Kurt is the Director of Facility Services at Graceland. He was in several of the pictures.

Earnie Garner was listed in the "In Memoriam" section of the Horizons.



## July 19th

The Ft. Collins Congregation has been invited to worship with Loveland and Greeley, at La Paz at 10:30 a.m. We will not hold services in Fort Collins that day but invite everyone to join us (we can carpool) for this Worship, Sunday Picnic and Family Swim.

## WCN Panel: Personal Reflections

After June's Second Sunday Social (which featured a Potluck & Welcoming Community Network Panel of six people who shared personal experiences), four people volunteered to share Personal Reflections for our July newsletter. Panelists included Kim Dower, a pharmacist from Aurora, her adult daughter Rochelle Wagner from Wyoming, Jim and Dawn Stahl, parents of a gifted son, Dale, who is completing his doctorate at Columbia in NYC, Rev. Hal Chorpensing, Senior Pastor of Plymouth Congregational, a United Church of Christ in Ft. Collins, and Carol Halac, a member of Plymouth UCC. We greatly appreciated the panelists for sharing their sacred stories!

(Handouts: [2 Questions](#) [Brochure](#) )

*I went to an interesting program at church on Sunday. It was heart wrenching to hear the actual stories of; parents of a gay son, a woman who had a sex change, and her daughter who had essentially lost a father... but gained a friend. It personalized the mental, social, personal, and religious traumas, which the individuals, families, communities, and churches had gone through over a long period of time...and many continue to struggle.*

*And never once did they say we were wrong in our beliefs... they only said, "hear us, understand us, love us the way we are. And let us be who we are".*

*I went to an interesting program at church on Sunday. I hope it changed me!*

Joyce Jordeth

*I attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Social on June 14<sup>th</sup>. What an inspiring evening! Not only did we have an excellent potluck, but the speakers were all outstanding. I think we should all attend a similar panel before we make up our minds on the issue. I found the couple's comments about their son excellent. We should not "label" people by their sexual preference. They pointed out what an outstanding person he was. I found Kim Dower's story just heart breaking. What a testimony! Her daughter's testimony too, about what they went through to get to this point in their lives, and her acceptance of Kim. It was good to hear from a church member who has gone through this process in their congregation and the positive results.*

*Also, the Plymouth Congregational (UCC) Pastor's statements were excellent too. It was helpful to hear about a congregation that is already openly welcoming and affirming to everyone!*

Betty Jones



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## WCN Panel: Personal Reflections

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*Last Monday morning I mentioned to my water exercise group, that the night before I attended a panel presentation at my church. It was about people who had been considered “different”, because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.*

*Hearing the stories they shared made me realize that in high school my daughter’s best friend, Liz, (whom I always considered another daughter), may have gone through similar struggles. At the time, I myself didn’t understand anything about sexual orientation, and I wonder what support Liz lacked as she grew up. I realized, however, that my love for Liz has never changed.*

*When I listened to the story of a woman named Kim, as she described herself as a “transsexual”, I realized I had never known about these complexities. My heart absolutely went out to her and others who have suffered because of being misunderstood. What a blessing that she knows that God loves her as she is.*

*I would hope that our congregation becomes truly welcoming, to **everyone**, regardless of color, race, body size, or things like sexual orientation. We are all human beings and we all need to be loved and wanted... as we are!*

Lee Cook



*On Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup> I went to the potluck and panel discussion sponsored by our Welcoming Community Network that was about gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) population. I wasn’t sure what to expect, but wanted to know something about their stories.*

*It was important for me to know what they have experienced and how they perceive our treatment of them. We are all created equally, God created each one of us, and God doesn’t create junk. I think we all have a responsibility to others. I want to make things better, so others don’t have to experience negative things.*

*I heard stories of sadness and despair. I heard denial and not understanding themselves at times and not knowing where to go for help or who they could trust or talk to. I heard stories about separation and the accompanying loneliness. Sometimes it was separation from within; knowing there was a difference, but not understanding. I heard anger at God so they could feel accepted by others as well as loved by God. Even from within the halls of our denomination striving to be a Community of God for everyone, there was a detachment.*

*One person found obstacles to a meaningful life by, using drugs, alcohol, and, being in unhealthy relationships. Eventually, this person was able to find help from counselors and realized they were a person of worth, but as a female trapped inside a man’s body. At the age of 48, she was able to get help and now has a fantastic relationship with God and with her family. She is at peace with herself.*

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**WCN Panel: Personal Reflections**

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*The Pastor from Plymouth Congregation of the United Church of Christ stated that as an Open and Affirming ( O & A) congregation it is not filled with gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender individuals. Rather, it has brought others into their congregation who embrace wholeness; where all people are accepted for who they are. Many are simply young families seeking a good example for their children and a nurturing community.*

*Jesus set the example for each of us. He ministered to the “outsider”, often those cast out of society; the dispossessed; the lowest of society at the time. He saw each individual as a person of worth. We should reach out to those who may be different from us. After all, perhaps we are the strange ones of the world and we truly are our brother’s keeper. I’m glad I attended the panel, and wish more could have shared the experience. I encourage others to take advantage at some future time. Please feel free to ask me questions about my experience; I’ll be happy to share with you!*

*Peggy Gordier***Congregational Picnic!****July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 6 p.m.****Location: Fossil Creek Lake Pavilion**

Hot dogs, hamburgers, drinks and homemade ice-cream for dessert provided.  
Bring a salad or a side dish to share and any lawn games you might like to play.

Entertainment scheduled and a water feature near by.

Come join in the fun, don't forget the bug spray and sunscreen.

RSVP to Sharon Fulton or Pat Miner

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