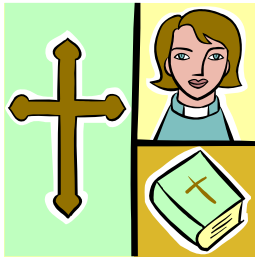




Community of Christ

The Communicator

Pastor's Greetings



I want to thank all the people who assisted as planners or participants in the beautiful **Taizé Worship Service** we experienced Sunday morning, September 20.

Taizé is an ecumenical community in France, founded by Brother Roger during World War II. Each year, tens of thousands of young people visit Taizé for worship and doing community service. I talked with someone this week who visited Taizé for five days and found it to be an extraordinary experience.

Taizé worship uses lots of silence, repeated scripture passages, readings, and simple modern chants. It is just one way to experience God's presence among us. One of the wonderful things about honoring our diversity is knowing that all worship styles will not appeal to everyone. After our service on the twentieth, for instance, we heard many responses. One person said, "That worship touched me in ways I can't fully explain; it deepened my capacity to pray." Another said he was introduced to it for the first time and "hopes we do it again." One woman found it "interesting, but not compelling." Our Worship Planning Team wants to hear from you, the members and friends of the congregation, so that our worship life blesses many. If you have thoughts about this, please join us for **Ways and Works of Worship**, a workshop on Saturday morning, **October 31**, from 9 until noon.

Also, we want everyone to know about our **new adult church school class**,

Saving Jesus, or often referred to as *Living the Questions*. It is a small group, dvd-based, exploring the meaning and ministry of Jesus Christ. Each **Sunday at 10:00 a.m.** we will watch a segment of a DVD interview with a variety of teachers: Marcus Borg, Walter Bruggeman, Tex Sample, and Helen Prejean (a Catholic sister and author of *Dead Man Walking*, who provided prison ministry to a rapist facing death row). Our class is **not** so much aimed at "changing" how we think about who Jesus is or was, as to **create a safe space for us to talk about Christianity** in personal and honest ways, without fear of our views being judged. Early birds get coffee or juice at 9:30! Come JOIN us!

Sharon Troyer

October Calendar



- 4**—Priesthood Gathering, 9 a.m.
- 4**—First Sunday Giving, Food-Bank Donations
- 7**—Worship Team Mtg., 7 p.m.
- 8**—Afternoon Women's Group, 1 p.m.
- 11**—2-Cents-a-Meal Offering
- 15**—Leadership Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 18**—Communicator items are due
- 25**—Annual Harvest Party
- 25**—Sunday Children's Activity
- 31**—Worship Workshop, 9 a.m. until noon



October Birthdays



Eric Fronapfel	Oct. 2
Mary Kohlman	Oct. 7
Jon Mendenhall	Oct. 14
Beverly Doig	Oct. 21
Ben Miller	Oct. 21
Gilbert Pagat	Oct. 21
Nancy Miller	Oct. 23
Rick Bunch	Oct. 28
Sarah Tolbert	Oct. 30

Sunday-School Update



We had a great turn-out at the children's Sunday School Kick-Off, September 13, and we think this year is going to

be TERRIFIC! Thirty children are listed on our roster, and we are blessed to introduce these outstanding teachers who will guide the children in our classes. They include: Tom Beck and Gil Pagat—middle/high school class; Nancy Miller and Sharon Fulton—elementary school class; Shauna Clark—4 to 6-year-olds; and Marilyn Garner and Debbie Jones—2 and 3-year-olds.

Because only one teacher at a time will be responsible for providing lessons, we need one additional volunteer who is Youth Worker Qualified to assist in each class every Sunday. Our teachers are very grateful for the extra set of hands, and we are actually required to have two adults in each room. Marilyn Garner has posted a sign-up sheet on the east wall by the kitchen, and several people have signed up already. Please check your schedules and then join us in the rewarding experience of working with our delightful children. Also, please let Sharon Fulton know if you would be available to substitute as a teacher or assistant.

We Saw It in the Paper!

There was a great article in the paper on Bob Fulton winning the national decathlon title. I didn't see how he came out in the Rocky Mountain Masters Games.

Mary and Rich Kohlman purchased property at 2127 Katahdin Drive.

Saw a picture of everyone at Spec—but couldn't pick out Shirley Remmenga or Rich Kohlman. They'll have to tell us where they were in the picture.

The wedding of Cooper James (Betty's grandson) and Katy Brinlee was noted in the *Graceland Horizons*.

Several local people were donors to, or honored by donations to, Outreach International.

Members of this faith community donated to the CSU Library Funds.

Fourth Sunday in October Special Children's Activity

The 4th Sunday Children's Activity on October 25 is to TAKE A HIKE! We will be hiking the trails at the Environmental Learning Center on Drake and Timberline. Be dressed for the weather that day. For more information, contact Rick and Kay Bunch or Bill and Pat Miner.



Overdue Explanation

I feel that I owe the Fort Collins congregation an explanation concerning my priesthood status. I have shared with some of you individually but never seemed to find the right time to share with the congregation as a whole. I apologize for waiting so long, looking for the right time. *The Communicator* may not be the best choice, but I fear there may never be a “right time” to share this any other way.

In February 2007, after 44 years of active priesthood ministry, I requested release from my then current office of High Priest. This decision was made after several years of struggle and was undoubtedly one of the most difficult decisions of my life. Space does not permit me to recite all the reasons here. In the interest of brevity I will simply share that as a high priest I no longer felt I could authentically support the discriminatory policies of the world church. As I told the priesthood members in my immediate family, “This conflict and struggle is mine alone and I am not in any way suggesting it should be yours.” Each person must deal in their own way with whatever inconsistencies or conflicts they see in church policy or in their own theology.

As you know, I have continued to be an active member of the congregation and have been working at that level as well as the denominational level to change what I see as a failure to be inclusive and live up to our historical belief in the worth of all persons. Words of Counsel to the church in recent years have been encouraging in this regard, but we have yet to live up to that counsel in deed.

About 18 months ago I initiated the formation of the Fort Collins WCN Group as one way to assist in demonstrating that principle and to put flesh on those words. I have been encouraged by the welcoming nature of this congregation

and the fact that our original group of 3 members has grown to 23.

I am willing to visit with any of you individually if you have questions or just want to discuss my situation further.

Jon Mendenhall

Conditions of Membership

Rebaptism needed for baptized Christians wanting to join Community of Christ?

If you haven't participated in a discussion about this issue, being referred to as *Conditions of Membership*, please know your views are important. The First Presidency has requested feedback from all congregations. In August, Ft. Collins had a chance to voice their views with each other. Your opinions can still be included in what we send to Andrew Shields at headquarters. Ask Sharon or Debbie for more information or visit the Web site, www.CofChrist.org and click on Conditions of Membership for more information.



Annual Harvest Party

This month in place of the **Second Sunday Social**, the congregation will host their **Annual Harvest Party, October 25 at 5:00 p.m.** Activities will include a potluck, costume party, and pumpkin carving! Join us for a fun evening!

Priesthood Gathering

All priesthood, join us for a prayer service at 9:00 a.m. on October 4. We look forward to meeting with you.

Sharon Troyer and Debbie Jones

Worship Workshop

Plan now to attend **“The Ways and Works of Worship”**—a worship workshop for worship planners, presiders, musicians, and other participants—on Saturday, Oct. 31 at 9:00 a.m. till noon.

October 4 at 1 p.m.



A 5K walk through the historic section of Fort Collins begins at First Presbyterian Church. We would like to get a team from our congregation to walk and raise funds. Contact Sharon Troyer or Les Cunningham if you would like to walk or support a walker.

Thanks for reading the Communicator online or on your own computer. We appreciate the time, labor, postage, paper, etc. you are saving the congregation!

<http://www.cofchrist.org/peacecolloquy/>