

***We proclaim Jesus Christ  
and promote  
communities of joy,  
hope, love, and peace.***



# Communicator

*A monthly newsletter of*



Community of Christ



*Fort Collins, Colorado*

*A Welcoming Congregation*

*For everyone born, a place at the table*

**December 2013**

## **“Tradition”**

—Debbie Jones, Worship Ministries Pastor

There is a story about a newlywed wife wanting to cook a special dinner for her husband. She called her mother for instructions to cook a pot roast. The mother began... “Cut off the end of the roast, then place the roast in the pan...” The



wife did this for years every time she cooked a pot roast and even taught her daughter to do the

same. When the daughter asked why she needed to cut off the end of the roast, the mother said, “I don’t know, that’s the way my mother taught me.” So they decided to call the grandmother and ask. Grandmother’s response was, “You cut off the end of the roast so it will fit in the pan.”

The Christmas season is here with all its traditions—caroling, decorated trees, visits from Santa Claus, cookie exchanges, and Christmas Eve services. Which ones do you include in your family celebrations? Do you know where they come from and why they are important to your family? Gary and my families all lived close by, so our holidays were planned so we could be with both sides. My parents and siblings and their offspring gathered at my paternal grandmother’s home on Christmas Eve. Our immediate family spent Christmas

morning at home then visited my maternal grandparents and joined Gary’s sibling at Marilyn’s house in the evening. All of Lloyd and Joy’s extended family also gathered on New Year’s Day. Of course, there was food at every home. Now that the family has grown and new families are included, our traditions have changed but are no less important. Traditions are the threads that tie generations together.

I once went to a wedding where there were so many “traditions” included that the importance of the occasion was almost lost. Are we also guilty of packing our holiday with so many traditions that we are losing the “Reason for the Season”? Why do we do what we do? Do we continue to cut off the end of the roast? I encourage you to find the story behind your traditions, share them with your family and even make your own new traditions.

Remembering always that “Jesus Is the Reason for the Season.”



May your holidays be blessed.



## Communicator

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### Communion Emblems Brought to You

If you are unable to attend a Communion service and would like the emblems brought to you, please contact Bob Fulton, 484-6943, or Dave Simons, 282-0969, to make arrangements. Also, if you know of anyone who would like the sacrament brought to them, let Bob or Dave know in advance, and one of them will get in touch with that individual so arrangements can be made.

### Second Sunday Social

December 8: Annual Holiday Dinner, 5:00 p.m.



### Christmas Choir Is Forming

I would like to invite everyone who sings to join us for a short choir season beginning Monday, November 25, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the church to prepare for Advent and worship services in December. This is such a joyous time of the year, and we can offer special music ministry to our congregation! Please consider coming and sharing your voice!

Thanks,  
Tom Beck

December 2013 Communicator

## Sing New Songs

### *The Challenge of Our New Hymnal*

For the past 20 years, Community of Christ has held a Peace Colloquy in October at which an International Peace Award is given to someone who has worked for peace and justice. This year's event (2013) also served as the launch of the new denominational hymnal, *Community of Christ Sings*, with the award going to Reverend John Bell of the Iona Community.



To pair these two events together might seem a bit of an oxymoron—but it really isn't. What we sing powerfully impacts our beliefs and actions. What we grow up singing remains with us for life, even when we are sure we have left childhood behind.

Our "old" hymns do have value for us. They have provided the foundation for where we find ourselves now, and the hymns from our childhood often bring us comfort when needed. But sometimes our hymns have been filled with stilted and unfamiliar words that might cause us to wonder if what we are singing about has any relevance to the world we are living in. Sometimes they are filled with platitudes that allow (and may even encourage!) us to remain comfortable in our seats, comfortable in our beliefs that God will take care of any messes we might create. Others focus primarily on eternal life and what might happen after we take our last breath—without calling us to accountability for our stewardship of this life and earth.

But our hymnals can—and should—challenge us to truly live out what we say we believe. While this challenge can be found in our older hymnals, albeit in language that may not be as familiar to us, there are also many contemporary hymn writers who call us to respond to that challenge in language that is specific to our time and context.

We must sing about our destruction of the earth and our lack of appreciation of the sacredness of creation, realizing with Thomas Troeger that “[w]hen we harmonize with earth and its elemental song, we recall who gave us birth and to whom we all belong.” (His hymn is titled “Learn from All the Songs of Earth.”)

With Shirley Erena Murray we must sing about God’s weeping “at children’s innocence abused...at anger’s fist,...at women battered and afraid”—topics we have too often ignored in our churches, allowing domestic violence to continue and leaving individuals in those situations wondering if they have any place to turn (from her hymn “God Weeps”).

We must be reminded by Carl Daw’s words that we cannot sit idly by while people are in jail, while war continues, where people are separated by age, race, or gender. Instead “God has work for us to do” (emphasis added; from his song “Till All the Jails Are Empty”).

Dan Damon challenges us to see the Christ in new ways—perhaps “like a child on the street.” We cannot assume that we know how Christ will appear but must be open to seeing with new eyes.

As our society grows ever more pluralistic, there are increasing opportunities for the church to become involved in activities of justice and peacemaking. This includes reaching out to members of the LGBT community, who have so often been told there is no place for them in the church. David Lohman challenges the church to “fling the church doors open...[so that there can be] room enough for everyone inside” (from “God, We Gather as Your People”).

And finally, Reverend John Bell challenges us each individually—and the church collectively—with a question about how we will respond to God’s call. Will we “risk the hostile stare...kiss the leper clean...reshape the world around” (from “The Summons”)?

Research shows that the canon of hymnody in a congregation/denomination is set fairly quickly.

Every hymnal has numerous hymns that end up being ignored for various reasons. We can either look at our hymnals and settle for the safe and comfortable—or we can let the inspiration of hymn writers challenge us to truly be followers of the One we say we proclaim.

—Pam Robison, Worship and Music Support Ministries Specialist, International Headquarters

## December Birthdays

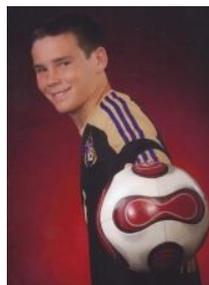


Marilyn Garner	12/2
Dick Foster	12/3
Pat Miner	12/16
Carnie Fulton	12/16
Michael Davis	12/16
Gordon Woelfle	12/17
Juliette Garner	12/17
Kathy Bridwell	12/20
Maria Swall-Yarrington	12/21
Bill Miner	12/22
Hawkins Garner	12/22
Carrie Newman	12/23
Melanie Fronapfel	12/28
Nona Woelfle	12/29



## Up With Youth

Fort Collins High School’s **Zach Fronapfel** was named to the Class 5A all-state soccer second team. Zach, a senior midfielder, scored two goals in a season in which Fort Collins made it to the 5A Colorado state semifinals.



In addition, Zach was selected as his team’s MVP and to the All-Conference 1<sup>st</sup> Team.



## Congregation Christmas Project

Cold days and nights filled with wind and snow are a fact of life here in Northern Colorado. It is also a fact of life that many of our brothers and sisters do not have a warm secure home to escape the effects of winter weather. This season we will be collecting hats, gloves, scarves, and coats to benefit the homeless in our community. As was the case last year, a tree will be set up in the church foyer to be decorated with these gifts of warmth. ARC and Goodwill stores and area thrift stores are good sources for these items. Please bring these items to the church by Sunday, December 22, so we can spread the gift of warmth this season. All items will be delivered to Homeless Gear for distribution.

## Financial Report



### October Income

#### World Church

Use where needed most	\$1,477.50
Invite People to Christ	5.00
Abolish Poverty/End Suffering	140.00
Pursue Peace on Earth	15.00
Develop Disciples to Serve	5.00
Experience Congregations in Mission	5.00

**Total** **\$1,647.50**

#### Local

Local Offering	\$2,203.50
Building Fund	35.00
Herald House Clearing	20.00
Family Assistance	57.00
Other	118.00

**Total** **\$2,433.50**

—Betty Jones, CFO

## December Calendar



Check the website

<http://cofchristrm.org/FortCollins>

- Dec. 1: Communion Service  
First-Sunday Giving, Potluck
- Dec. 2: Choir practice, 6:30–8:00 p.m.
- Dec. 4: No Leadership Council or Pastors meetings this month
- Dec. 8: Two-Cents-a-Meal Offering  
Second-Sunday Social, Annual Holiday Dinner 5:00 p.m.
- Dec. 9: Choir practice, 6:30–8:00 p.m.  
PFLAG, 7:00 p.m.
- Dec. 15: *Communicator* items due
- Dec. 16: Choir practice, 6:30–8:00 p.m.
- Dec. 19: Book Club, 1:00 p.m. at Lillian Wallace's home. **Note change in date.**
- Dec. 22: Christmas Program, 6:00 p.m.**
- Dec. 25: Christmas Day

## Speakers, Keyboard, Greeters, and Nursery



### Speakers

- ❖ Dec. 1: Dick Foster
- ❖ Dec. 8: Sharon Troyer
- ❖ Dec. 15: Gil Pagat
- ❖ Dec. 22: Rick Bunch
- ❖ Dec. 29: Debbie Jones

### Keyboard

- ❖ Dec. 1: Tom Beck
- ❖ Dec. 8: Sharon Fulton
- ❖ Dec. 15: Kay Bunch
- ❖ Dec. 22: David Birks
- ❖ Dec. 29: Jean Newman

### Greeters

- ❖ December: Pagat Family

### Nursery

- ❖ Dec. 1: Marilyn Garner
- ❖ Dec. 8: Bettie Miller
- ❖ Dec. 15: Marta Remmenga
- ❖ Dec. 22: Voni Simons
- ❖ Dec. 29: Rose Julch



## New West Fest

**Rob Fulton**, son of Bob and Sharon Fulton, was voted PSAC Women's Soccer Coach of the Year. This is his eighth year at Shippensburg, PA University and the first time in school history the Raiders made the NCAA Tournament. They also went on to earn a first-ever postseason victory but lost in the Second Round match.



Oceana Alcoster, Rose Julch, Jon Mendenhall, and Awutmn Alcoster greeting people at NewWestFest

## Recent Event Pictures

### Lecture by Moji Agah



Moji Agah, Shirley Remmenga, Paul Urioste, Kay Bunch



Moji Agah

A giant thank you to our volunteers during New West Fest. We welcomed over 1,025 people to our “oasis of air-conditioning,” cold water, restrooms, baby-changing tables, chairs, toys for children, and treats. The following people provided this hospitality: Max Coopwood, Bill and Pat Miner, Don and Joyce Worthington, Brian and Vera Entwistle, Logan and Nancy Miller, Bob and Sharon Fulton, Rose Julch, Awutmn and Oceana Alcoster, Jon Mendenhall, and Gary and Debbie Jones. Thank you! Thank you! There were many comments of gratefulness for this much needed oasis during such hot weather.

### Home Blessing for the Chungag Family

### November Game Night



Brian Entwistle, Sharon Troyer, Vera Entwistle, and Donna Clark playing a mean game of dominoes.



Irene Chungag, Rick and Kay Bunch, Mary Kohlman, Vera Entwistle, Goddy and Nanga Chungag, Brian Entwistle, and Shuri Chungag.