

***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

November 2013

“The Unknown Future”

—Vera Entwistle, Vision and Mission Ministries Pastor

A few summers ago, Brian and I traveled from Australia to the USA and enjoyed a motor trip through the US national parks, from the south to north. We crossed the prairies and the plains, the deserts and the great salt flats of Utah. We drove through the Badlands and the Grand Tetons and crossed the Sierra Nevadas and the Rocky Mountains. We followed the trails of the pioneers. We traveled on good roads in a good automobile with a good road map. We had never been in any of that country before, but we were never lost once, nor did we ever miss the road and have to turn around and go back.

As we traveled, though, I kept remembering others who had traveled there before us—pilgrims and pioneers—who had ventured into a land that was then unknown. I thought of their struggles to locate the river crossings and find the mountain passes, their confrontation with the unknown, which always lay just around the next bend of the river or beyond the next hilltop. We had our road map to guide us and to alert us to what lay ahead; but they had neither road map nor road. They always stood at the edge of the unknown, at the borderline of the unexplored.

I thought of life—our life—yours and mine. Like pilgrims and pioneers, we, too, are always standing at the edge of the unknown. No scout has gone into the future and returned to tell us

what is out there. We must move into it in faith. For us the future has not been charted yet; nobody has been there to photograph it and bring back the picture. And if we are going ahead—and we must—we need a faith for the uncharted way.

Looking back over the road we have chosen and traveled, we can see somewhat clearly; but as we turn forward, from whatever vantage point we look, there is nothing that we can see. It is very true that we “do not know what a day may bring forth” (Proverbs 27:1). We are living constantly in a continuous encounter with the unknown.

A small girl, at the beginning of her learning process, said, “Momma, do I know as much as I don’t know?” I doubt if any of us does. Whatever the number of days we may have mastered and logged, tomorrow is still a mystery, its unexplored expanse is yet unmapped. And when we enter it—and enter it we must—we must go by faith, the faith of both the pilgrim and the pioneer. The road that is as yet untraveled is always an unanswered question. Sometimes it may appear to loom as an insoluble problem, but always, always we have Christ to guide us.

As Brian and I leave to return for our visit to Australia, we little know what lies ahead. What we take with us is the testimony of our time in Fort Collins and the love of this congregation. We came here as strangers and you made us so welcome. Till we meet again, may God continue to bless us all.

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

November 10: Game Night! 5:00 p.m.



November Birthdays



Makenna Jackson	11/1
Joyce Jordeth	11/2
Sharon Troyer	11/2
Shauna Clark	11/2
Shirley Remmenga	11/4
Jon Ytell	11/7
Emmaline Garner	11/7
Jeanne Graybill	11/7
David Birks	11/11
Brett Bridwell	11/11
Zachary Fronapfel	11/15
Alec Fronapfel	11/15
Debbie Jones	11/17
Gary Alton	11/19
Vergean Wood	11/20
Dawn Gaffield	11/21
Steve Watkins	11/25
Wendell Wallace	11/28

Financial Report



September Income

World Church

Use where needed most	\$1,507.00
Invite People to Christ	5.00
Abolish Poverty/End Suffering	289.00
Pursue Peace on Earth	5.00
Develop Disciples to Serve	5.00
Experience Congregations in Mission	5.00
Total	\$1,816.00

Local

Local Offering	\$3,047.50
Building Fund	50.00
2 Cents a Meal	90.50
Family Assistance	90.00
Other	132.00
Total	\$3,410.00

—Betty Jones, CFO

Speakers, Keyboard, Greeters, and Nursery



Speakers

- ❖ Nov. 3: TBA
- ❖ Nov. 10: Vera Entwistle
- ❖ Nov. 17: Denise Jensen
- ❖ Nov. 24: TBA

Keyboard

- ❖ Nov. 3: Jean Newman
- ❖ Nov. 10: Sharon Fulton
- ❖ Nov. 17: Tom Beck
- ❖ Nov. 24: Sharon Troyer

Greeters

- ❖ November: Bill and Pat Miner

Nursery

- ❖ Nov. 3: Debbie Jones
- ❖ Nov. 10: Bettie Miller
- ❖ Nov. 17: Marta Remmenga
- ❖ Nov. 24: Mary Kohlman



Up With Youth

Gabe Pagat, playing with Griffin Kosonocky on the #1 Doubles Tennis Team for Fossil Ridge High School finished sixth in the state class 5A tournament.



Cassidy Denny, a church member from Sacramento, California, is a freshman on the CSU women's volleyball team that is 18-0 this season. Come watch her play! She is a defensive specialist and has been a starter in recent matches. A number of us have been able to meet her after home matches.



Getting to Know You!

Labor Day weekend Nancy Miller shared the following with the congregation. It is “a keeper” which deserves to be passed along.

Nancy's Talk:

“A few weeks ago, Brian Entwistle was pointing to this banner and applauding the benefits of community. It got me thinking about today's theme: “All Are Welcome.” These banners were designed for my Arizona congregation, and these duplicates were the last project my mother and I made together. When my mother taught me to sew, she was patient! She made it look so easy when she demonstrated what to do. My seams were crooked, uneven, puckered, right sides weren't always together. I'd get frustrated and just want to quit. I'd take a break and when I came back to resume sewing, mom had ripped out my mistakes. The fabric pieces were neatly waiting to be re-pinned and ready for me to try again. That's been a comforting analogy of communion for me as an adult. It was an invitation to recap the events of our recent past, evaluate what went well, what didn't, what could have been done better, or should or should not have been done. It was an invitation to come to the table where all are welcome—here everything is ripped out, wiped clean—and we are encouraged to create again. We were invited to use our time, talents, resources, and opportunities to construct our lives under his patient guidance and to keep his commandments, always remember him, and have his Spirit to be with us.

Today's scripture comes from the 14th chapter of Luke. Jesus has been invited to dinner at the home of a Pharisee. Now Jesus had not always been complimentary in his conversations about, or with, the Pharisees. It wasn't exactly a welcoming, bury the hatchet, reconciling situation. The Pharisees had baited a trap and were inviting Jesus in hopes he'd break a law so they could arrest him. The dinner was

purposefully on a Sunday, and an individual with a dropsy diagnosis, a very visible illness, was present. Jesus knew exactly what was up and he asked, "So is it within the law to heal on the Sabbath?" When there was no answer, he healed the man and sent him away. Then he poignantly asked, "Who doesn't 'work' on the Sabbath? If your cow falls into a ditch, don't you get it out right away?" And being called out on their self-serving piousness, they had no answer. What a powerful lesson in all being welcomed. Here Jesus was standing up to injustice, tradition, and society, to bring healing, acceptance, and hope to a suffering individual.

Continuing with verse 7, the feast is beginning and Jesus notices the guests are jockeying for position at the table. Culturally whoever was seated closest to the host at his table, was considered superior, prestigious, the most important, and as your respective seat was moved farther away from the host, your culturally perceived value subsequently diminished.

Luke 14:7-14

7. And he put forth a parable unto them concerning those who were bidden to a wedding; for he knew how they chose out the chief rooms, and exalted themselves one above another; wherefore he spake unto them, saying
8. "When thou art bidden of any man to a wedding, sit not down in the highest room, lest a more honorable man than thou be bidden of him;
9. "And he who bade thee, with him who is more honorable, come, and say to thee; Give this man place; and thou begin with shame to take the lowest room.
10. "But when thou art bidden to go and sit down in the lowest room; that when he who bade thee, cometh he may say unto thee, Friend, go up higher; then shalt thou have honor of God, in the presence of them who sit at meat with thee.

11. "For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he who humbleth himself shall be exalted.

12. "Then said he also concerning him who bade to the wedding 'When thou makest a dinner, or a supper, call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, neither thy kinsmen, nor rich neighbors; lest they also bid thee again, and a recompense be made thee.

13. 'But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind,

14. And thou shalt be blessed for they cannot recompense thee; for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just."

I like how that last statement was worded in the Bible version, the Message. "What I'm saying is, If you walk around with your nose in the air, you're going to end up flat on your face. But if you're content to be simply yourself, you will become more than yourself."

I'm so glad Luke did not prohibit inviting friends, brothers, relatives, and rich neighbors to dinner. We might question our motives for doing so. Are we manipulating an invitation for personal prestige or the purpose of a return invitation? In Jesus' day, an invitation was a commitment from the acceptor to return an invitation to the host. Are we so uneasy with some aspect of a person and that by not inviting, our judgment is assuring a comfortable separation? Jesus is making it real clear that his sacrifice, his body, his blood were shed to open the invitation, to welcome ALL, to his promises, his love, his hope, and his table. And we are committing to remember that when we partake in Communion.

When connecting my thoughts with welcoming, Communion, scriptures, and the banners, it felt like their history tied them together. To make the patterns, I started with a small object. Using a regular Kinko's printer, I could enlarge it 200%, then again, then I could only enlarge a portion at a time so paper was taped together and recopied and taped again until the image was large enough for a pattern.

Then material was cut out, ironed, then sewed onto a background. From a small, sometimes unrelated item, a statement to Love, Peace, Hope and Joy was created.

The rainbow of people idea for Hope, came from a physical therapy magazine, a want ad looking for PT's. In the life application Bible, it's explanation of Luke's passage says people today are just as eager to raise our social status by being with the right people, wearing the right clothes, driving the right car, exercising a prestigious occupation. Wanting a nice car or hoping to be successful in our work is not wrong in itself—it's wrong only when we want these things just to impress others. We can serve others in any circumstance. One's occupation is not what determines a person's value.



The Peace dove came from a Hanukkah card. There was a comic in the paper a few weeks ago and it was St. Peter at the pearly gates. On one side of him was a sign and a long line, people as far as you could see. On the other side, just a sign. The crowded sign read "right religion" and had an arrow this way. The empty sign said "wrong religion" this way. The caption was St. Peter's remarks that were along the lines that "no one gets the humor." Applying Luke's message, do we use our religion for argument, self righteousness, belittling another religion for the sake of boosting our own? Again there's nothing wrong with being passionate about a religion, as long as the focus is *not* on being the right religion and subsequently making another be the wrong religion, but serving the Lord, welcoming and inviting everyone to his table.



The Love banner came straight from my brain. The frugal side of me had ribbon. (I had to buy it because it was a closeout, a smoking good-deal sale, and I knew I would need it sometime

and it was just sitting in my sewing supplies waiting for that just-right project.) The anatomical side of my brain wanted to use a



heart, the symbol of love. My sister cross-stitched me a saying "Love wasn't put in your heart to stay, love isn't love until you give it away." The lonely side of me wanted two hearts. The point is that each one of us is the only one who

has control over our thoughts. I made the banners not too long after my divorce. My marriage had fallen apart, the company I worked for was bought out and I was working for a new supervisor who had very different expectations and values than myself and my previous boss. Did I make the banners for personal gain? Did I need to feel like I could be successful at something? Did I want people to be complimentary about my work so I'd feel better about myself? Did I need my hands busy so my mind would be still? Did I need to feel the comfort of something familiar, sewing with my Mother? Did my Heavenly Father weave healing into a service task? We are the only ones who know the motive behind our actions. Two fold, that puts the responsibility on us to honor God with the thoughts and motives behind our actions and reminds us not to judge the thoughts and motives that we don't know behind our brothers' actions.

The Joy, came right out of a book on banners for worship. There are lots of good books out there to help us with decisions, actions, and patterns for making beauty with our lives.



We are invited to come to his table. He died on the cross to remove the obstacles keeping us separated. The pieces of our lives are renewed and ready to be created. Welcome."

—Beverly Doig, reporter

November Calendar



Check the website

<http://cofchrstrm.org/FortCollins>

- Nov. 3: Communion Service
First-Sunday Giving
NO Potluck this Sunday
Faith Family Hospitality meal, 5:00 p.m.
- Nov. 10: Two-Cents-a-Meal Offering
Second-Sunday Social, "Games" anyone for Mahjong? 5:00 p.m.
- Nov. 11: PFLAG, 7:00 p.m.
- Nov. 14: Women's Group
- Nov. 17: Denise Jensen, Estate and Gift Planning workshop, including a potluck, 12:15–2:00 p.m.
Communicator items due
- Nov. 20: Leadership Council, 4:00 p.m.
- Nov. 21: Book Club. **Note change in date**
- Nov. 22: Chad Elliot Concert, 7:00 p.m.
- Nov. 24: Business Meeting to elect/sustain leadership, 12:00 p.m.
- Nov. 28: Thanksgiving

Lord of all, to thee we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise

—HS 75

Up-Coming Second-Sunday Socials

December 8: Annual Holiday Dinner



Fort Collins Congregation Offerings 2013 Disciples' Generous Response

Month	Total World Initiatives	Total Local Operating	Total Operating Giving
January	1,583.00	2,407.00	3,990.00
February	1,917.50	1,867.50	3,785.00
March	2,252.00	3,752.50	6,004.50
April	2,347.00	2,382.00	4,729.00
May	1,971.25	3,338.76	5,310.01
June	2,333.00	3,540.56	5,873.56
July	1,582.00	2,331.00	3,913.00
August	3,926.00	2,369.00	6,295.00
September	1,816.00	3,047.50	4,863.50
October			-
November			-
December			-
TOTALS	\$ 19,727.75	\$ 25,035.82	\$ 44,763.57



Denise M. Jensen, CEP, Specialist, Estate and Gift Planning, will be with us on November 17 to do a workshop that will include a potluck. We will meet after church from 12:15–2:00 p.m. She will then have time to meet privately for those who desire on Sunday evening, Monday and Tuesday. You may have already received correspondence about this event .

Thank you for giving me the morning; thank you for every day that's new; thank you that I can know my worries can be cast on you.

—HS 74

October Annual Harvest Party Pics!



Ryder



Gary and Debbie



Logan and Awtumn



Oceana, Madison, Awtumn, Bianca, and Logan



Nancy, Sharon, and Rich



Tom, Sharon, Betty, and Max



I think I ate too much candy!



Ken and "Bones"



Youth Bell Choir