

***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

January 2014

“Have A Blessed New Year!”

—Rich Kohlman, Communication Ministries Pastor

In keeping with a sacred Christmas, it seems important to also wish each of you a “Blessed New Year,” instead of just a “Happy New Year.” Our tendency is to think about how our lives can change in the New Year, as if the start of the year is somehow different than any other day in the year. But the sacredness of Christmas with the birth of the Christ Jesus, and the promises that come in the life of Jesus, reminds us that every day can be a new day, a new start, a new possibility. Therein is present the blessedness of each moment, each day, each year. This goes far beyond happy.

One of my hopes for each of you this year is to be blessed with the “dark night of the soul.” That may sound like a strange and frightful blessing, but it is in fact one filled with hope. Sandra Cronk says this about the darkness. “God is to be found in the darkness, not away from it. . . . Stay in the darkness and emptiness. Do not flee from the nothingness or try to fill up that hollow place with your own attempts to create new finite pillars on which to build your life. . . . By facing the darkness, we confront that empty place inside each of us. . . . We realize that in our relationship with God in the past we have turned more toward God’s gifts than to God alone. We have looked for comfort or challenge. We have looked for direction and meaning. These are fine and good, but now God brings us beyond those divine gifts. We come to God alone. We have,

in the past, confused God’s gifts with God. Now we begin to move beyond this confusion. . . . The dark night journey. . . allows us to see where we have inappropriately invested our faith, security, and trust in that which is created rather than in the One who underlies all creation. . . . In the dark night, [the essential structure of our relationship with God] itself changes.”

I can think of no greater blessing than to have the structure of my relationship with God changed. This new relationship involves learning about a deeper “I.” Again, Sandra Cronk says this. “This deeper ‘I’ is not a possession that can be remade through all our efforts at self-improvement. This deepest self is a gift from God.”

I have been profoundly challenged by Sandra Cronk to learn more about God in the dark night. I sense a blessing there beyond my comprehension, and it is a blessing I wish for you also. May we be blessed and changed in the dark nights of this New Year.



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

January 12: Game night, 5:00 p.m.



January Birthdays



Julie Foster	1/3
Glenn Smith	1/4
Lillian Wallace	1/8
Brian Cole	1/9
Greyson Garner	1/11
David Garner	1/18
Sharon Fulton	1/19
Nancy Mendenhall	1/19
Paul Urioste	1/25
Bonnie Oberoi	1/26
Jessica Julch	1/29
Bob Fulton	1/29

Financial Report



November Income

World Church

Use where needed most	\$1,475.08
Invite People to Christ	40.00
Abolish Poverty/End Suffering	230.00
Pursue Peace on Earth	15.00
Develop Disciples to Serve	15.00
Experience Congregations in Mission	5.00
Total	\$1,780.08

Local

Local Offering	\$2,756.59
Building Fund	35.25
Two-Cents-a-Meal	59.00
Family Assistance	74.00
Chad Elliot Concert donation	500.00
Total	\$3,424.84

—Betty Jones, CFO

January Calendar



Check the website

<http://cofchristrm.org/FortCollins>

Jan. 5: Communion Service
 First-Sunday Giving, Potluck
 Jan. 8: Worship Coordinators, 1:30 p.m.
 Pastors meeting, 2:30 p.m.
 Leadership Council, 4:00 p.m.
 Jan. 12: Two-Cents-a-Meal Offering
 Second-Sunday Social, Game night,
 5:00 p.m.
 Jan 13: PFLAG, 7:00 p.m.
 Jan 19: *Communicator* items due
 Jan. 23: Book Club, 1:00 p.m.



2014 Directory Updates

Please let Jon Mendenhall know of any needed changes before we print the 2014 directory. You can get to the online directory below. The password is "hidden." Go to <http://cofchristrm.org/FortCollins/List>, to check your current information.

Speakers, Keyboard, Greeters, and Nursery



Speakers

- ❖ Jan. 5: Rich Kohlman
- ❖ Jan. 12: Marc McKenzie
- ❖ Jan. 19: Bob Walker
- ❖ Jan 26: Brian Entwistle

Keyboard

- ❖ Jan. 5: Jean Newman
- ❖ Jan. 12: Kay Bunch
- ❖ Jan. 19: Sharon Troyer
- ❖ Jan 26: Sharon Fulton

Greeters

- ❖ January: Nancy and Logan Miller

Nursery

- ❖ Jan. 5: Debbie Jones
- ❖ Jan. 12: Bettie Miller
- ❖ Jan. 19: Marta Remmenga
- ❖ Jan 26: Pat and Bill Miner

A graphic titled "PROVIDE THE SUPPLIES for the STUDENTS OF FORT COLLINS 8000 SHEETS". It features a glue bottle labeled "SUPPLIES" and a yellow pencil. Below is a chalkboard with the following text:

WHAT: "Supply our Students Week"

WHEN: August 6th through August 10th and the entire school year

WHY: Students need low or no cost school supplies year-round

HOW: "Provide the Supplies" by donating school supplies (no monetary donations, please) to the Poudre School District Teacher's Closet at the PSD Partnership Center. Call 970-490-3208 to make arrangements for your donation. Donations are accepted year-round.

Partnership Center: 1680 S. Stover St

"Supply our Students" is a collaborative effort comprised of representatives from Volunteers of America, Colorado State University, the OtterCares Foundation, Poudre School District, Concerned Larimer and Realities for Children. Our mission is to raise awareness of the need for school supplies and to encourage donations so that all students have access to the supplies necessary to succeed. Please support "Supply our Students Week" August 6-August 10, 2012.

Logos for OtterCares, Volunteers of America, Colorado State University, Concerned Larimer, and Realities for Children are at the bottom.

Guidance for the New Year!

Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.

—Isaiah 43:18–19

Recent Event Pictures



Bill Miner's 70th birthday

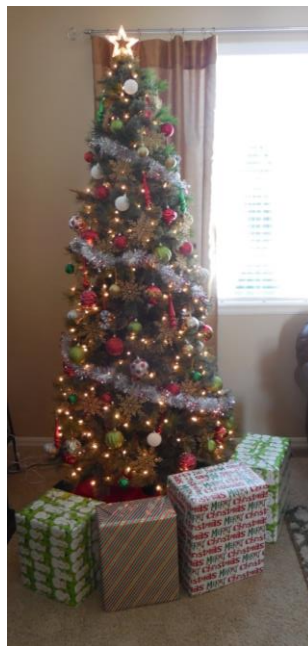


Chad Elliot Benefit Concert for Crossroads Safehouse—we raised **\$1,500!**

PARADE OF CHRISTMAS TREES



The Christmas tree at the Kohlmans' in preparation for their open house Sunday, December 15



The Christmas tree at the Pagats' has mysterious presents at its base!



The Christmas tree at Joan Green's has elegant Victorian and crystal ornaments.



Two Christmas trees at Miners' house—one in the family room and a *gold* one in the front window!



The Christmas tree at Simons' is a Norfolk Island pine with homemade decorations.

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The Prince of Peace.

—Isaiah 9:6



The Wallaces' Christmas tree contains memories—many stories amongst the boughs.



A Christmas tree for the grandkids at Shirley and Paul's house



A very, very tall Christmas tree at Tom and Max's house—note the elf stuck in the tree.



Don and Joyce Worthington have both a Colorado Christmas tree with snow and a bear-y humorous one.

Many thanks to those of you who shared your trees for a PARADE OF CHRISTMAS TREES.

—Joyce Worthington (with camera in hand)

—Beverly Doig (with Mapquest in hand)