

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



Community of Christ

A monthly newsletter of

Fort Collins, Colorado

A Welcoming Congregation

For everyone born, a place at the table

May 2014

“Fertile, Healing Stillness”

—Rich Kohlman, Communications/Managerial Pastor

“Sabbath implies a willingness to be surprised by unexpected grace, to partake of those potent moments when creation renews itself, when what is finished inevitably recedes, and the sacred forces of healing astonish us with the unending promise of love and life.”

—*SABBATH: Restoring the Sacred Rhythm of Rest*. Wayne Muller, pg. 37.

I was meditating in the Temple Chapel in Independence, Missouri, a few years back, cogitating at times and just sitting in stillness at times, wondering about how we western-minded people can get hold of the power of healing stillness. Why do we (I) often feel that we must be doing something for healing to occur, rather than just sitting still in God’s presence. Don’t we have to do something for our spirits to be transformed, to be healed?

It was then that grace surprised me, and I saw what was always there. If I cut my finger, I clean it, put some antiseptic cream on it, cover it with a bandage, and do nothing else. If I break a bone, I get it set—if needed—and a cast is applied to hold the break still. And in this stillness the healing occurs without me doing anything else. As it is with the body, so it is with our spirits that are often broken, bruised, cut, or damaged. If we respect the fertile healing stillness of Sabbath, we find ourselves being healed by the mystery of God’s divine activity, which we are unaware of most of the time. Here in stillness, sacred forces are

released that astonish us over and over again. The body and the spirit need similar things—nourishment, exercise, and rest. In addition, it is the healing stillness of rest that we too often deny both the body and the spirit, but especially the spirit!

Still I exclaim in my humanity, “Isn’t there something for me to do?” Yes, there is. In the words of Ruth Haley Barton, I can “create the conditions in which spiritual transformation can take place, by developing and maintaining a rhythm of spiritual practices that keep me open and available to God.” That happens most often when I am silent, present, and aware of God’s counsel to *be still!*

Lent is now over for the 2014 Easter season, and I found my attempts to utilize the Lenten season for some stillness time this year to be an utter failure. I let too many other things distract me. Nevertheless, the beauty of our relationship with God is that it can take place at any time. We are not limited to the Lenten season. We can resurrect the “conditions in which spiritual transformation can take place” at any time during the year.

Therefore, as I continue my quest to carve out space for stillness, I encourage you to also be aware of the depth of your relationship to God and not wait until the next Lenten season to present your spirits for transformation.



Communicator

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May Birthdays



Voni Simons	5/4
Awtumn Alcoser	5/10
Rose Julch	5/15
Jim Miller	5/15



Gil and Merly Pagat:

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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.

Financial Report



March Income

World Church

Use where needed most	\$1,462.50
Invite People to Christ	25.00
Abolish Poverty/End Suffering	270.00
Pursue Peace on Earth	35.00
Develop Disciples to Serve	30.00
Experience Congregations in Mission	50.00
Total	\$1,872.50

Local

Local Offering	\$4,311.50
Building Fund	50.00
Two-Cents-a-Meal	87.17
Family Assistance	67.00
Youth Fund	66.00
Total	\$4,581.67

—Betty Jones, CFO

May Calendar



Check the website

<http://cofchristrm.org/FortCollins>

May 4: Communion Service
 First-Sunday Giving, Potluck
 May 7: Worship Coordinators, 1:30 p.m.
 Leadership Council, 4:00 p.m.
 May 11: Two-Cents-a-Meal Offering
 May 12: PFLAG, 7:00 p.m.
 May 18: *Communicator* items due
 Last day of class for youth
 Third-Sunday Social, Bingo, 5:00 p.m.
 May 19: Pastors meeting, 2:00 p.m.
 May 26: Memorial Day
 May 29: Book Club, 1:00 p.m.

Mission Prayer

"God, where will your Spirit lead today? Help me be fully awake and ready to respond. Grant me courage to risk something new and become a blessing of your love and peace." Amen.

Speakers, Keyboard, Greeters, and Nursery



Speakers

- ❖ May 4: Deb Friesz
- ❖ May 11: Rich Kohlman
- ❖ May 18: Nancy Miller
- ❖ May 25: Debbie Jones

Keyboard

- ❖ May 4: Sharon Fulton
- ❖ May 11: Sharon Troyer
- ❖ May 18: Jean Newman
- ❖ May 25: David Birks

Greeters

- ❖ May: Mary and Rich Kohlman

Nursery

- ❖ May 4: Debbie Jones
- ❖ May 11: Bettie Miller
- ❖ May 18: Marta Remmenga
- ❖ May 25: Voni Simons

Fort Collins Congregation Offerings 2014 Disciples' Generous Response

Month	Total World Initiatives	Total Local Operating	Total Operating Giving
January	1,522.50	2,405.00	3,927.50
February	2,344.50	3,437.50	5,782.00
March	1,872.50	4,311.50	6,184.00
April			-
May			-
June			-
July			-
August			-
September			-
October			-
November			-
December			-
TOTALS	\$ 5,739.50	\$ 10,154.00	\$ 15,893.50

Fun, Food, and Fellowship on the Third Sunday

(Formerly known as Second-Sunday Social)

Bingo

Third Sunday Social

May 18, 2014, 5:00 p.m.

It's Spring Cleaning Time!



Bring your White Elephants



and Come for

Bingo

with "prizes"!!!



Getting to Know You!

The Chungag Family

The Chungag family (Goddy, Irene, Nanga, and Shuri) hosted a "Celebration of Life" for Goddy's father Saturday evening, March 8. Over 80 invited guests, including neighbors, friends from church, co-workers from Aims



College, and friends from Cameroon and Nigeria, spent the evening with traditional activities.

The house was decorated with many family photos as well as a table with pictures, and a horn, which is the symbol for a long life and spirit. A gorgeous, long, white table was laid out with numerous

African dishes, as well as the handiwork of Nancy Miller, on large platters, some serving dishes were lined with handmade doilies.

Several of the attendees wore traditional ceremonial robes—hand embroidered in various colors. Goddy's caftan was particularly impressive in brilliant yellow, orange, and blue. He carried an inherited, embroidered cap with a red feather from a sacred bird.

A traditional circle dance with the picture of the honored departed was performed by the guests. It was a special experience to share with those of many different cultural backgrounds. Goddy and Irene then flew back to Cameroon where Goddy's extended family once again honored his father.



The Chungag family has been attending the Fort Collins congregation at the invitation of the Entwistles. They moved to Fort Collins from Detroit, Michigan, to take jobs with Aims Community College in Greeley. Did you know that Irene was born and raised in Cameroon, Africa, where she studied before moving to France to study? Goddy is a dean of students at Aims College, and Irene teaches English as a Second Language.

The family enjoys participating in volunteer projects in the church groups where they attend.

While living in Europe, Irene took the opportunity to visit Germany. She has also visited Guadalajara, Mexico.

The daughters have been very busy, with school. They both love art and music: Nanga is in choir and theater and Shuri plays the piano and is currently involved in photography. Irene's life has been blessed to have experienced many different cultures. She also enjoys exploring the different cuisines. She enjoys reading about other people's lifestyles

and their cultures. She loves to cook and to entertain. Their home welcomes family and friends.

Lydia, Irene's mother, comes to stay with them about half of the year before returning to Cameroon.

—Beverly Doig, reporter, assisted by Jane Hayman



Up With Youth

Awtumn Alcoser has been chosen by teachers at Lincoln Middle School to join a group of six other sixth-grade girls on an all-day tour of Hewlett Packard on May 16. These girls were picked because of promising skills in math and technology.

Oceana Alcoser is part of the Leadership Team at Putnam Elementary. This select group helps out with morning announcements, math projects, and duties in the kitchen. They placed very high in the country for raising money for Leukemia and Lymphoma, and her class gave up their party for an extra donation. Right now they are involved in promoting an anti-bullying campaign.

Bazaar News



We began the congregation Bazaar this season in early November 2013, and for years the monies earned were placed in the Building Fund. The total amount earned in 2013 was \$120.30, and was placed in the Building Fund.

This year the afternoon Women's Group decided to place the monies earned in the Youth Fund. For the first quarter of 2014 we have received \$70.00, and placed it there.

We have been pleased that monies keep coming in. Folks from our various building renters have bought items, and the tea towels, have especially been a popular item.
—Betty Jones, reporting

Youth Fund

At the March 5, 2014, Leadership Council meeting, the council approved the following resolution which will be brought to the congregation at our next business meeting.

Resolution for Youth Support

Whereas, our youth are highly valued and are an important part of our congregational life; and

Whereas, the youth are encouraged to attend the Community of Christ sponsored youth activities such as congregational special activities, Rocky Mountain Mission Center activities: spring and fall retreats, summer camps; and World Church scheduled activities: International Youth Forum (IYF), SPECTACULAR, and Peace Colloquy, and

Whereas, the transportation costs are often more than normal family budgets can handle thus preventing participations in these activities for many of our youth; and

Whereas, these activities are extremely important in the spiritual and social development of our youth; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Fort Collins Congregation continue to subsidize 90 percent of the registration fees for all Community of Christ sponsored youth activities plus 50 percent of the transportation costs for any and all of these church sponsored activities, and be it further

Resolved, that a *Youth Activity Fund* be established with sufficient funds designated in the congregational budget to cover these costs, and where donations for youth activities can be made to support our youth.



Support for Faith Family Hospitality

The Leadership Council had previously announced that Second-Sunday Offerings would go to support the Faith Family Hospitality program. We have since learned that one of the sponsoring churches had paid for FFH families to spend two nights in a motel at Christmas along with a food voucher and gifts for the children. Since Christmas will fall during the week we will help the FFH families at the Mennonite church, the council voted to use the funds we raise through the Second-Sunday Offerings to support a similar activity at Christmas for the families.

Easter Activities



Waiting for the brunch to start.



The meal is finished and the fellowship is in full swing.



The Easter Egg Hunt is on!