

***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 2015

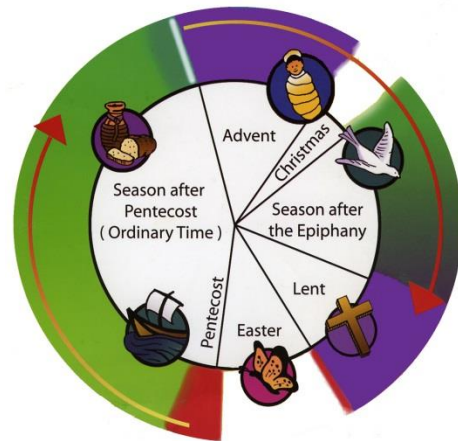
“Starting another Year Together”

—Dave Simons, Pastoral Ministries Pastor

The Advent season, encompassing the four Sundays before Christmas, signal the beginning of the Christian calendar. Following that period, scriptures focus on and direct us to other aspects of the Word of God as told in story, writings of prophets, the Psalms and other sacred passages, and more important, for Christians, the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. The Christian calendar is a way to allow us to journey, in an organized form, through the events, or religious commemorations, on the birth, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus within the space of a year.

Our worship services, and preaching ministry, are typically centered on lectionary scriptures that draw the readers and listeners to a central theme found in the passages for that week. Whether in personal meditation and reading or pondering the “spoken word” on Sunday, we allow our minds to contemplate where God is directing us and how we can model the teachings of Christ in our daily lives.

Sometime close to mid-year, following the Sundays after Easter, and then Pentecost observance, we finally get to Ordinary time in the calendar. Our worship helps define ordinary as “the ongoing divine providence around us.” The term Proper is also used to number those Sundays, e.g. June 14, is Ordinary Time (Proper 6).



Okay. So what does this mean for us? How do we step forward now into the new year, poised with new energy, firm resolves perhaps, enthusiastically approaching the calendar ahead with focus on how Christ’s mission can be *our* mission throughout 2015? Can we dig deeper into scriptures and other worthwhile books and writings to gain clearer understanding of God’s purpose in our life? Will we devote more time to spiritual practices and disciplines that has the promise and potential to enrich our lives through personal renewal and a closer walk with the Christ?

We start once again this journey through the *Liturgical Year*. May we find strength through the support of one another as we engage in Christ’s mission. Let us eagerly anticipate the readings and teachings that await us on Sundays, and during the week, as we seek new understandings of God through our worship and fellowship together. I am certain we will be blessed in our journey during 2015!

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.

January Birthdays



Glenn Smith	1/4
Lillian Wallace	1/8
Brian Cole	1/9
Nancy Mendenhall	1/19
Sharon Fulton	1/19
Nanga Chungag	1/20
Paul Urioste	1/25
Jessica Julch	1/29
Bob Fulton	1/29



Book Club News

Book club meets on Thursday, January 22, at 1:00 p.m.

Financial Report



November Income

World Church

Use where needed most	\$2,357.50
Abolish Poverty/End Suffering	359.00
Invite People to Christ	5.00
Pursue Peace on Earth	5.00
Develop Disciples to Serve	30.00
Experience Congregations in Mission	5.00
Total	\$2,761.50

Local

Local Offering	\$3,557.00
Building Fund	50.00
Two-Cents-a-Meal	74.50
Family Assistance	80.00
Youth Fund	240.00
Other	227.00
Total	\$4,228.50

—Betty Jones, CFO

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	1,927.50	2,663.00	4,590.50
May	1,875.50	2,741.35	4,616.85
June	1,981.50	2,606.50	4,588.00
July	1,819.50	2,254.50	4,074.00
August	1,873.50	3,081.00	4,954.50
September	1,762.50	3,047.50	4,810.00
October	2,031.50	2,901.50	4,933.00
November	2,761.50	3,557.00	6,318.50
December			-
TOTALS	\$ 21,772.50	\$ 33,006.35	\$ 54,778.85

January Calendar



Check the website

- Jan. 1: **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**
Jan. 4: 11:00 a.m., Communion Service
First-Sunday Giving
12:15 p.m., Potluck-lunch
Jan 7: Pastors Meeting, 1:30 p.m.
Worship Coordinators, 3:00 p.m.
Leadership Council, 4:00 p.m.
Jan. 11: Church School, 9:45 a.m.
Worship, 11:00 a.m.
Jan. 12: PFLAG, 7:00 p.m.
One Village, One Family organization
meeting, 7:00 p.m.
Jan. 14: Priesthood gathering, 6:00 p.m.
Jan. 18: Church School, 9:45 a.m.
Worship, 11:00 a.m.
Two-Cents-a-Meal Offering
Third-Sunday Fellowship, Game Night,
5:00 p.m.
Communicator items due.
Jan. 22: Book Club, 1:00 p.m.
Jan. 25: Classes, 9:45 a.m.
Worship, 11:00 a.m.

January Third-Sunday Social



Game night with Max Coopwood and Tom Beck leading. 5:00 p.m. We will have a Mexican potluck followed by various board games and Ping Pong.

Do You Know?



There are very interesting Holiday traditions in our group.

The **Worthington** household where Don grew up was meticulous in opening one gift at a time, carefully noting the item and the giver so that thank you notes might be sent, then folding the



paper and passing the gift around to be shared by all. So it was a real cultural shock for him when after his daughter, Beth, was born the family had Christmas with the other grandparents. In this household Christmas morning was major chaos—all the gifts were distributed and

opened immediately with everyone oohing and aahing at once and gift paper being tossed in all directions.

Joyce Worthington liberates her Christmas bear from the basement to be a part of the holiday decorations.

This year Grandma Joan Green will be heading to California to share some Green family traditions with Sierra and Spencer. There will be chocolate fondue with fresh fruits for Christmas Eve and a Swedish tea ring and “Sweet Petals” sweet rolls for Christmas morning.

As many **Remmengas** as possible (including the Ytells and Paul) have had their “Sammy Claus” party where they eat lots of chocolate and fruits. It is a tradition that they adopted after living in Switzerland.

The **Slocums** place candy canes on the Christmas tree for the grandchildren. The family Christmas dinner is a baked ham (since there was turkey for Thanksgiving).

The **Jones** always seemed to have a busy holiday season so their family traditions have been limited. However, they wrap the gifts in the Christmas stockings and all unwrapped gifts are from Santa. The **Garners** have oysters on Christmas Eve.

Dave Simon's German Grandma Gaul Simon who lived on a dairy near Des Moines always baked a cardamom cake for Christmas—very rich with lots of butter. Dave still keeps up that tradition.

Glen and Shari Smith make it a point to attend a Christmas Eve service each year; they are looking forward to the one at Fort Collins Congregation this year.

While living in India the **Wallace** family made a door hanging of the Nativity scene cut from blue felt and placed on a screen. This hanging was later remade into a horizontal hanging and after 50 years it still comes out at Christmas along with the many handmade and special ornaments that remind them of their travels.

The **Fultons** have fruit and Croatian nut bread on Christmas morning. Rob, Melanie, and Carnie will open their stockings then each gift will be opened one at a time so that all might share.

Rick and Kay Bunch will be remembering many family Christmases in many places. One particular memory is from the years in Tahiti. On this occasion, two busloads went to the Leper colony to sing carols and share their Christmas with those living there.

The **Pagats** will remember friends and family overseas. They will have fish, poi and noodles for the holiday time although Merly will have to work on Christmas.

Joyce Jordeth is anticipating five or six phone calls to help her celebrate. She will be sending out a Christmas letter to friends and family.

The **Miners** plan to be away for Christmas, but they will be putting up two trees as usual—one in the family room and an elegant gold one in the front window.

The **Kohlmans** generally have Taco Salad or Gumbo for Christmas Eve. If they are living in a home with two levels, they gather on the upper level, and when “Santa” rings the jingle bells they all come down to see the tree lit and the packages underneath. Breakfast is homemade sweet rolls. Christmas eve they read the story of Jesus birth from the Bible and the “Night Before Christmas.” Then they hang their stockings on the fireplace. They may also sing some Christmas carols.

Growing up the **Doig** children would gather on Christmas Eve while their mother read the Christmas story from the Bible to the light of a big red candle. As they grew older they would sing carols in harmony to finish off the worship time. Many years later when Beverly was working in Sweden, Mom and Pop came for the holidays. Of course, Mom wanted to read the story on Christmas Eve, but Beverly had misplaced her Bible in her temporary company flat. Even though Mom knew the story from memory, it just wasn't the same for her and she had to settle for the Christmas section of the Messiah. (the Bible was later discovered in the bottom of Beverly's sewing box!)

Grandma **Joan Green** reported that her grandchildren, Sierra and Spencer, are still hanging the Advent calendar that she made for their dad, Scott. They add a felt piece each day during advent.

—Beverly Doig





Alec Fronapfel just completed a successful eighth grade basketball season with his Leshar Middle School team. They made it to the semi-finals and just lost that game by 2 points. A very exciting season!



Eric Fronapfel has illustrated several children's books, and the most recent one, *The Twelve Days of Spring in Colorado*, has just been published. It is the third in a series including *The Twelve Days of Winter in Colorado* and *The Twelve Days of Autumn in Colorado*. The summer book will be published in a few months. He has also illustrated *Colorado Creatures: An Alphabet Book*, *A Child's Imagination: Childhood Poems* and *A Forever Family: A Puppy's Tale*. His books are available through Amazon or he would be happy to show you his work.



Our hats, gloves, scarves, socks, coats

and, hoodies for homeless.



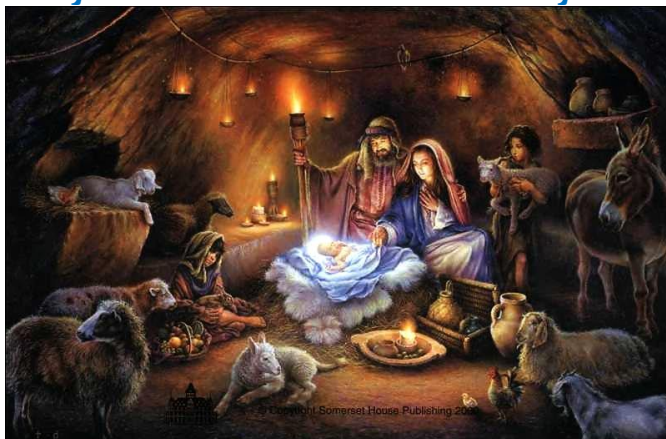
Christmas Play

Once Upon a Christmas Cheery





We pray your home has been blessed with the hope, joy, love, and peace of Christmas in your celebration this year.



May the New Year be filled with the same hope, joy, love and peace as you move into new possibilities of life and service.

We Say Farewell to the Chungags



—The pastorate,
 Kay Bunch
 Debbie Jones
 Rich Kohlman
 Gil Pagat
 Dave Simons