

***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*

**July 2015**

## ***“Sand Castles”***

—Gil Pagat, Vision and Mission Ministries Pastor

**H**ot sun. Salty air. Rhythmic waves. A little boy is on the beach. On his knees he scoops and packs the sand with plastic shovels into a bright red bucket. Then he upends the bucket on the surface and lifts it. To the delight of the little architect, a castle tower is created.

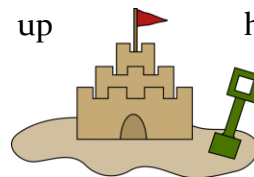
All afternoon he will work, spooning out the moat, packing the walls. Bottle tops will be sentries. Popsicle sticks will be bridges. A sand castle will be built.

Big city. Busy streets. Rumbling traffic. A man is in his office. At his desk he shuffles papers into stacks and delegates assignments. He cradles the phone on his shoulder and punches the keyboard with his fingers. Numbers are juggled and contracts are signed, and much to the delight of the man, a profit is made.

All his life he will work. Formulating the plans. Forecasting the future. Annuities will be sentries. Capital gains will be bridges. An empire will be built.

Two builders of two castles. They have much in common. They shape granules into grandeurs. They see nothing and make something. They are diligent and determined. And for both the tide will rise and the end will come. Yet that is where the similarities cease. For the boy sees the end, while the man ignores it. Watch the boy as the dusk approaches.

As the waves near, the wise child jumps to his feet and begins to clap. There is no sorrow. No fear. No regret. He knew this would happen. He is not surprised. And when the great breaker crashes into his castle and his master-piece is sucked into the sea, he smiles. He smiles, picks up his tools, takes his father's hand, and goes home.



The grown-up, however, is not so wise. As the wave of years collapses on his castle, he is terrified. He hovers over the sandy monument to protect it. He blocks the waves from the walls he has made. Saltwater soaked and shivering, he snarls at the incoming tide.

“It’s my castle,” he defies.

The ocean needs not respond. Both know to whom the sand belongs...

*And I don’t know much about sand castles. But children do. Watch them and learn. Go ahead and build, but build with a child’s heart. When the sun sets, and the tides take—applaud. Salute the process of life, take your father’s hand and go home. —Max Lucado*

When I was a young child my family and I loved to go to the beach. We had many experiences as a family when God revealed himself through the sea shells, ocean waves, and sand castles we built.

The waves of the ocean can teach us wonderful lessons about God’s grace. Just as the ocean splashes upon the shore with wave upon wave,

so out of God's fullness he sends grace upon grace. His grace never stops in our lives, but is truly sufficient for each moment.

**II Corinthians 12:9**—*But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you. For my power is made perfect in weakness."* May the waves remind you and your family of God's constant provision and presence.

The only thing constant is change. Despite our best efforts at building a rock solid sand castle kingdom, the waves come in closer and closer and wipe it out. We know it will happen. We know change is coming, but we build something great anyway. This is a valuable lesson. Change comes, people come and go, new things are discovered. It can feel like the tide is ever shifting. Trust God. Build great things anyway.

**Psalms 95:5**—*The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed.*



### Communicator

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Beverly Doig sends her thanks for the beautiful plant that was sent to her as she heals from her back difficulty.



### 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



#### May Income

##### World Church

Use where needed most	\$3,069.50
Abolish Poverty/End Suffering	433.00
Invite People to Christ	20.00
Pursue Peace on Earth	15.00
Develop Disciples to Serve	5.00
Experience Congregations in Mission	5.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,547.50</b>

##### Local

Local Offering	\$2,815.50
Building Fund	110.00
Two-Cents-a-Meal	69.50
Family Assistance	95.00
Youth Fund	176.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,266.00</b>

—Betty Jones, CFO

### Financial Response

For the first time in four years our giving, based on a goal of 50 percent to local operating and 50 percent to World Church offering, is more balanced than ever. Usually it has leaned toward local by 14–18 percent. This year (see chart on next page) we are leaning 6 percent toward World Church operating. This will help tremendously at a time when deep cuts have been made to the World Church budget. Thank you.

## Fort Collins Congregation Offerings 2015 Disciples' Generous Response

Month	Total World Initiatives	Total Local Operating	Total Operating Giving
January	3,168.50	2,289.52	5,458.02
February	3,232.00	2,738.00	5,970.00
March	4,026.15	4,759.50	8,785.65
April	3,190.50	2,681.50	5,872.00
May	3,547.50	2,815.50	6,363.00
June			-
July			-
August			-
September			-
October			-
November			-
December			-
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 17,164.65</b>	<b>\$ 15,284.02</b>	<b>\$ 32,448.67</b>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>47%</b>	

## July Birthdays



James Miller	7/1
Joan Green	7/4
Jay Ytell	7/4
Merly Pagat	7/5
Josh Birks	7/6
Rich Kohlman	7/10
Christy Harms	7/11
Larry Slocum	7/12
Shuri Chungag	7/13
Evie Birks	7/17
Thelma Slocum	7/17
Betty Jones	7/17
Logan Miller	7/20
Madison Clark	7/22
Gary Chatburn	7/22

## July Calendar



Check the website

- July 1: Pastors Meeting, 1:30 p.m.  
Worship Coordinators, 3:00 p.m.  
Leadership Council, 4:00 p.m.
- July 4: Independence Day
- July 5: Adult Class, 9:00 a.m.  
Communion Service, 10:00 a.m.  
First-Sunday Giving  
Two-Cents-a-Meal Offering
- July 12: Worship with Greeley and Loveland at LaPaz.
- July 13: PFLAG, 7:00 p.m.
- July 19: Adult Class, 9:00 a.m.  
Worship, 10:00 a.m.  
*Communicator* items due  
Third-Sunday Fellowship, Karaoke
- July 25: Saturday Morning Homeless Breakfast  
(all are welcome to come by and help),  
8:00 a.m.–Noon.
- July 26: Adult Class, 9:00 a.m.  
Worship, 10:00 a.m.



## July Third-Sunday Social

Karaoke night, 5:00 p.m. Planners are, Carrie Newman, Dave and Voni Simons, Don and Joyce Worthington, and Ken Jones. Watch the announcements for more information.

### Upcoming Socials

August 16	Annual Picnic
September 20	Game Night
October 18	Harvest Party
November 15	Holiday Dinner
December 20	Christmas Play



## Book Club News

Book Club will not meet during the summer. It will resume in the fall on the fourth Thursday of September.



## 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Fort Collins Congregation

2016 will mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Fort Collins Congregation. Joyce Jordeth and Max Coopwood have been involved gathering information about the church over these 100 years. If you have an interest in history and the church, and would like to share on a committee as we plan to celebrate this milestone, let Rich Kohlman know. ([rkohlman@comcast.net](mailto:rkohlman@comcast.net); (970) 484-1239) Dave Simons, Marilyn Garner, and Kathy Graybill have volunteered to help. There is still room for more to make this a memorable occasion in the life of our congregation.



The Rocky Mountain Mission Center staff has been on a journey. It seems that the way we engage in sacred community, as a church, has to change. We are not simply to survive, but to be that renewing, relevant, relationship-nurturing body that appears that so many people in the world are hungering for. In other words, we are to create Zion, the idea of the peaceable kingdom, and make it real, right here, right now.

The staff, as well as others not a part of the mission center staff, (but of the broader Community of Christ) have attempted to discern and understand this evolving, emerging transformation of the church. Section 163:1, 2 have gained our attention. In this journey, we have sought to understand the key to what God is calling us to be and to live into. Of course this is unfolding and ever changing as we begin to step out in faith—one step at a time. We will be sharing more specifically with you in the months ahead and invite you to consider Section 163:1, 2 and to prayerfully, meditatively read, listen, ponder, and dwell within its words. This scripture is calling us. God is calling us to something—not more of the same, not more work, but more living. May we dwell with the words of this scripture as we open ourselves to understand our unfolding call in this day and time.

1. *“Community of Christ,” your name, given as a divine blessing, is your identity and calling. If you will discern and embrace its full meaning, you will not only discover your future, you will become a blessing to the whole creation. Do not be afraid to go where it beckons you to go.*
2. *a. Jesus Christ, the embodiment of God’s shalom, invites all people to come and receive divine peace in the midst of the difficult questions and struggles of life. Follow Christ in the way that leads to God’s peace and discover the blessings of all of the dimensions of salvation.*  
  
*b. Generously share the invitation, ministries, and sacraments through which people can encounter the Living Christ who heals and reconciles through redemptive relationships in sacred community. The restoring of persons to healthy or righteous relationships with God, others, themselves, and the earth is at the heart of the purpose of your journey as a people of faith.”*

—Doctrine and Covenants Section 163:1, 2



## Enduring Principles



Our Enduring Principles define the essence, heart, and soul of our faith community. They describe the personality of our church as expressed throughout the world.

### Enduring Principles

- Grace and Generosity
- **Sacredness of Creation**
- Continuing Revelation
- Worth of All Persons
- All Are Called
- Responsible Choices
- Pursuit of Peace (Shalom)
- Unity in Diversity
- Blessings of Community

### Sacredness of Creation

- In the beginning, God created and called it all good.
- Spirit and material, seen and unseen, are related.
- Creation's power to create or destroy reminds us of our vulnerability in this life.
- God is still creating to fulfill divine purpose.
- We join with God as stewards of care and hope for all creation.

## Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church

6/22/2015

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ!

We are deeply saddened by the senseless killing that took place this week in Charleston, South Carolina. We join in prayer with other people of faith, across the country and around the world, upholding the families and friends of the victims from the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church.

The mayor of Charleston, Joe Riley, said: "The only reason someone would walk into a church and shoot people that were praying is hate." Our hearts break at the violent expression of hate where the worth of each person was so brutally ignored. At the same time, we pray for the perpetrator, hoping the young man can come to understand the egregious errors of his actions and discover the redemptive power of the gospel. We pray justice for all can be achieved, and the peace of Jesus Christ may rest on each one involved to bring healing.

In the days ahead, we will hear more about what led to this tragic incident. May we learn from this incident and be open to how we can better achieve God's vision of shalom in our towns, cities, countries, and world. May we follow the leadings of the Holy Spirit in working to eliminate causes that contribute to hate crimes of any kind. May we be diligent in upholding the Worth of All Persons and in sharing the good news of Jesus Christ so all can enjoy the Blessings of Community.

Please remember the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church and the Charleston community. May we be stirred like never before to faithfully pray and attentively work for peace.

In Christ's Peace,

Linda Booth, Barbara Carter, Stassi Cramm,  
Ron Harmon, Art Smith  
USA Team of Apostles