

***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*

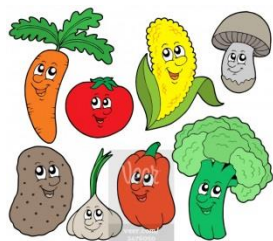
**September 2015**

## ***“Fresh Veggies!”***

—Debbie Jones, Worship Ministries Pastor

**I**t started a couple of years ago with a desire for fresh, homegrown vegetables. We made some raised beds and filled them with nutritious soil and compost. We knew there would be hungry deer close by so we put up a six-foot fence to keep them out. We thought we had a good, safe garden area and planted our crops: including beans, tomatoes, squash, beets, and kale. Soon there were small plants poking their heads up through the soil. They were only an inch tall when they just disappeared one morning. Had the deer somehow gotten into the garden? No. It was most likely a rabbit or small rodent.

The following year we planted and covered the seeds with netting. The plants grew in safety. As they got bigger we removed the netting so the bees could pollinate the blossoms hoping the plants were large enough that some mild pruning by the critters could be tolerated. All



seemed fine until the beans started climbing. Their single long stem was vulnerable—one bite and the entire vine shriveled and died. Then a spring hailstorm wiped out the

tomatoes and zucchinis.

This year we covered the seedlings and lined the six-foot fence with netting in an effort to deter the small rodents. So far, so good. We also strung a tarp over the garden during the

threat of hailstorms. So far, so good. The result: we have been able to harvest beans, squash, tomatoes, kale, and beets.

How often are our lives like gardening? We start out with a desire to be a good person, to be loving and caring, to follow Christ's teachings. We prepare. We study the scriptures and pray. We come to church and surround ourselves with church school and friends. We do everything we can on our end to have a good “garden” and produce good fruits. However, there is always something to munch us down in our growth: a misunderstanding, a harsh word, a misinterpreted action, an emotional storm. We put up our fences, netting, and tarps to try to protect ourselves better for the next time. We prepare again. With each day and each setback we grow stronger until we are big enough to survive and are able to share some of ourselves with others around us, to reach out to those in need in our community, to share our building with various groups, and to support our friends when they are suffering.

However, this is not our own garden. It belongs to God. He is the true gardener here. He helps us prepare our hearts. He protects us and keeps the “munchers” at bay until we are strong enough. It is through his loving hand that we are able to grow tall and strong so we may in turn help others.

In his garden we are a “community”—with fruit aplenty to share.

*“We all have the seeds of love in us. We can develop this wonderful source of energy, nurturing the unconditional love that does not*

expect anything in return... We begin practicing the love meditation on ourselves ("I"). Until we are able to love and take care of ourselves, we cannot be of much help to others. After that we can practice on others ("he/she", "they") —first on someone we like, then on someone neutral to us, then someone we love, and finally someone the mere thought of whom makes us suffer."

—*The Heart of the Buddha's Teaching* by Thich Nhat Hanh.

## Communicator

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## Financial Report



### July Income

#### World Church

Use where needed most	\$2,519.00
Abolish Poverty/End Suffering	295.00
Invite People to Christ	5.00
Pursue Peace on Earth	5.00
Develop Disciples to Serve	5.00
Experience Congregations in Mission	5.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,834.00</b>

#### Local

Local Offering	\$1,883.00
Building Fund	30.00
Two-Cents-a-Meal	0.00
Family Assistance	5.00
Youth Fund	50.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,968.00</b>
—Betty Jones, CFO	

## 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	3,225.50	2,433.00	5,658.50
July	2,834.00	1,883.00	4,717.00
August			-
September			-
October			-
November			-
December			-
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 23,224.15</b>	<b>\$ 19,600.02</b>	<b>\$ 42,824.17</b>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>46%</b>	

## September Birthdays



Joy Jones	9/2
Felicia Bridwell-Deshner	9/9
Donna Clark	9/11
Gabriel Pagat	9/15
Shawnea Pagat	9/15
Deb Friesz	9/19
Mike Davis	9/21
Kathy Graybill	9/22
Tom Beck	9/23
Jan Newman	9/25
Ets Cunningham	9/30

## The Holy Spirit

We believe in the Holy Spirit, Giver of Life, holy Wisdom, true God. The Spirit moves through and sustains creation, and transforms disciples. Wherever we find love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, or self-control, there the Holy Spirit is working.

## September Calendar



Check the website:

<http://cofchristrm.org/FortCollins/>

- Sep. 2: Pastors Meeting, 1:30 p.m.  
Worship Coordinators, 3:00 p.m.  
Leadership Council, 4:00 p.m.
- Sep. 6: Adult Class, 9:45 a.m.  
Communion Service, 11:00 a.m.  
First-Sunday Giving  
Potluck, 12:15 p.m.
- Sep. 13: Adult and youth classes, 9:45 a.m.  
Worship, 11:00 a.m.  
Two-Cents-a-Meal Offering
- Sep. 14: PFLAG, 7:00 p.m.
- Sep. 20: Adult and youth classes, 9:45 a.m.  
Worship, 11:00 a.m.  
*Communicator* items due.  
Third-Sunday Social, Game Night,  
5:00 p.m.
- Sep. 24: Book Club, 1:00 p.m.
- Sep. 26: Saturday Morning Homeless Breakfast  
(all are welcome to come by and help),  
8:00 a.m.–noon.
- Sep. 27: Adult and youth classes, 9:45 a.m.  
Worship, 11:00 a.m.



### September Third-Sunday Social

The Third-Sunday Social for September will be Game Night. Planners are: Gary and Debbie Jones, Betty Jones, and Karla Bencomo.

#### Upcoming Socials

October 18	Harvest Party
November 15	Holiday Dinner
December 20	Christmas Play



### Book Club News

Book Club will be held September 24 at Kay Bunch's home, 1839 Fromme Prairie Way. The book *Me Before You* by Jojo Moyes was on the 2015 Best Seller List. Please try to read the book, but come, even if you haven't read it. And don't forget to bring a snack to share!



### 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.



**Gabe Pagat** with his tennis partner Tristan Faust won their #1 doubles match against Broomfield on August 21, 6–4, 6–3.

**Alec Fronapfel** was selected as the only freshman at Fort Collins High School to make the varsity soccer team.

## 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

### Worth of All Persons

- God views all people as having inestimable and equal worth.
- God wants all people to experience wholeness of body, mind, spirit, and relationships.
- We seek to uphold and restore the worth of all people individually and in community, challenging unjust systems that diminish human worth.
- We join with Jesus Christ in bringing good news to the poor, sick, captive, and oppressed.



To the Leadership and Congregation,

Thank you so very much for once again providing your facilities for use as an oasis during NewWestFest. We truly appreciated the hospitality and friendliness of your volunteers.

Kindly,  
William Bevil and Stacy Ferdinands



Some of the people finding shelter during the rainstorm at NewWestFest.