

Our mission is to faithfully witness of Jesus Christ so that: *Our relationship with God can be nurtured,*

- *Our discipleship can be strengthened,*
- *The dignity and worth of persons can be valued,*
- *The recognition and contribution of others is accepted,*
- *We become aware of and respond to the needs of the community, and*
- *We will respect and care for God's earth.*



Communicator

A monthly newsletter of

Community of Christ

Fort Collins, Colorado

A Welcoming Congregation

For everyone born, a place at the table

December 2016

A Christmas Reflection

"On tiptoes at the Manger"

—Rich Kohlman, Co- Pastor

For the past few years now, there has been a longing inside me to do Christmas differently. And always it has been the same. The consumerism that plagues me, the too early music and decorations in the stores, the too much food that overcomes my resistance, the rush to have Christmas, and, when it is over, the sense that I missed something. I wonder, is that all there is?



A few years ago, a change began as we shared Christmas with the Garner family, helping them provide a marvelous dinner

experience for many of their close friends and family. And then, sharing with some of our friends from years past back home in Independence, Missouri, relationships began to be more important.

Now, this year, I'm beginning to sense again more movement as the sacred is moving back into the secular of my experience, pushing the secular just a little farther away. I'm less consumer oriented now, which is what the secular Xmas is all about, but I'm also

beginning to be more open to the mystery of the manger, which is what the Sacred Christmas is all about. There is mystery in gift giving and receiving that I do not want to deny nor stop, which is a sharing of joy, but there is the greater mystery of the incarnation announced on angel wings with the birth of the baby Jesus. This is the gift I really want to receive every year, to unwrap this mystery and let it change my life.

Paul W. Jones in his book *Teaching a Dead Bird to Sing*, says this about Christmas eve:

This is the night meant for angels and for those reborn to be child-like—those who can stand on tiptoes before the Mystery, with their minds in their hearts.

That is my deep desire for Christmas for me and also for you. May we stand on tiptoes together *with our minds in our hearts*.

This year, again, I want to say to people; I'm not going to wish you a Merry Christmas. I'm wishing you a Sacred Christmas!

So to all of you I say:

Have a very Sacred Christmas this year!



Communicator

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Christmas Party



The Third-Sunday Social for December Christmas Party to be held on Sunday, December 18 at 5:00 p.m. Soup and bread will be provided. Please bring a dessert to share. Bring a white elephant gift for a fun exchange game. Bring a Christmas thought, reading, poem, song to share if you would like. We will sing carols and maybe, just maybe, Santa will stop by.

“What we love galvanizes our attention. It frames our life. It forms the soil in which we grow; it is the seed in the ground. We give our heart to what we love.”

—Wayne Muller

Financial Report



October Income

World Church

Use where needed most	\$3,000.00
Abolish Poverty/End Suffering	318.25
Invite People to Christ	10.00
Pursue Peace on Earth	10.00
Develop Disciples to Serve	10.00
Experience Congregations in Mission	10.00
Total	\$3,358.25

Local

Local Offering	\$4,095.00
Building Fund	135.00
Two-Cents-a-Meal	107.71
Family Assistance	65.00
Youth	0.00
Other	20.00
Total	\$4,422.71

—Gary and Ruth Chatburn, CFO

Fort Collins Congregation

Operating Offerings

2016 Disciples' Generous Response

Month	Total World Initiatives	Total Local Operating	Total Operating Giving
January	3,375.50	4,032.00	7,407.50
February	2,589.00	2,731.50	5,320.50
March	3,677.00	3,344.00	7,021.00
April	4,114.00	3,876.00	7,990.00
May	2,673.00	3,892.90	6,565.90
June	2,432.00	2,489.04	4,921.04
July	3,132.73	2,911.50	6,044.23
August	2,729.00	2,469.00	5,198.00
September	2,845.00	2,833.00	5,678.00
October	3,358.25	4,095.00	7,453.25
November			-
December			-
TOTALS	\$ 30,925.48	\$ 32,673.94	\$ 63,599.42
Balance	49%	51%	

December Calendar



Check the website:

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

- Dec. 4: Church School, 9:45 a.m.
Communion Service, 11:00 a.m.
First-Sunday Giving
Potluck, 12:15
- Dec. 7: Worship Coordinators, 3:00 p.m.
Leadership Council, 4:00 p.m.
- Dec. 7: FFH Dinner and overnight
- Dec. 8: Take Away Lunch volunteers at
Murphy Center, 10:00–Noon
- Dec. 11: Adult and youth classes, 9:45 a.m.
Worship, 11:00 a.m.
Two-Cents-a-Meal Offering
- Dec. 12: PFLAG, 7:00 p.m.
- Dec. 22: Book Club, 1:00 p.m.
- Dec. 18: Adult and youth classes, 9:45 a.m.
Worship, 11:00 a.m.
Communicator items due.
- Dec. 24: Saturday Morning Homeless Breakfast
(all are welcome to come by and help),
8:00 a.m.–noon.
- Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Worship Service,
5:00 p.m.**
- Dec. 25: CHRISTMAS DAY**
- Dec. 31: New Year's Eve**



December Book Club News

Book Club will meet on December 15 at 1:00 p.m. **Note the change from the 4th Thursday to the 3rd Thursday.** The book is, *If God Is Love* by Phillip Gulley. Ruth Chatburn will host the club in her home.

The condition of your life is not a problem. You don't have to wait until the guest bedroom is cleaned and the bed made and the fresh towels are hung. Jesus is coming, ready or not. And even the dirtiest, foulest place is good enough for God to birth in you a love that you may not yet even be able to imagine.



Speakers, Planners, Keyboard, Greeters, and Nursery

Speakers

- ❖ Dec. 4: Deb Friesz
- ❖ Dec. 11: Kurt Remmenga
- ❖ Dec. 18: Gil Pagat
- ❖ Dec. 24: Shirley Remmenga

Planners

- ❖ Dec. 4: Deb Friesz
- ❖ Dec. 11: Debbie Jones
- ❖ Dec. 18: Bettie Miller
- ❖ Dec. 24: Tim Sundell
- ❖

Keyboard

- ❖ Dec. 4: Sharon Fulton
- ❖ Dec. 11: Deb Friesz
- ❖ Dec. 18: Sharon Troyer
- ❖ Dec. 24: Tom Beck

Greeters

- ❖ December: Marilyn Garner and Shirley Remmenga

Nursery

- ❖ Dec. 4: Marilyn Garner
- ❖ Dec. 11: Bettie Miller
- ❖ Dec. 18: Marta Remmenga
- ❖ Dec. 24: Rose Julch

December Birthdays



Marilyn Garner	12/2
Karla Bencomo	12/4
Pat Miner	12/16
Michael Davis	12/16
Juliette Garner	12/17
Kathy Bridwell	12/20
Bill Miner	12/22
Carrie Newman	12/23
Melanie Fronapfel	12/28
Goddy Chungag	12/28
Nona Woelfle	12/29

The Book Nook



It's here! It's for you! The Book Nook is located in the lounge room in the lower level of the church. There you can bring a book to share, take a book to read, and return a book—if you wish. Often I have a book that I have read and enjoyed, but no longer want to keep. Perhaps you have books like this. Now there's a place where one can bring their books to share with others. You are invited to bring a book, take a book, return a book, or keep a book. Happy reading! Happy sharing!

—Shirley Remmenga



I thank you, my beloved congregation, for all the visits, cards, prayers, hugs, and well wishes as I have gone through this last two months filled with hope and pain and healing. I am mending and will be going through the second knee replacement on December 8. I know you will continue to support me, and I am so grateful. I thank God for you.

Love from my heart to yours,
Shirley Remmenga

Holiday Meal Pictures



Hanging of the Greens





May you each have a Sacred Christmas!