

**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.



**February 2016**

# Communicator

*A monthly newsletter of*



*Community of Christ*



*Fort Collins, Colorado*

*A Welcoming Congregation*

*For everyone born, a place at the table*

## **“In a Rut?”**

—Debbie Jones, Worship Ministries Pastor

I learned to snow ski at Hidden Valley, a small ski area west of Estes Park, where there were lots of trees to avoid. Wide-open slopes were few, and the trails between the trees were difficult because of the deep ruts caused by so many skiers traveling the same path. There were two choices: ski in the ruts and go where they went or ski alongside the ruts where the snow was unpacked. However, there was a problem with the latter. The narrow path made the ruts difficult to avoid, and they would grab your skis, pulling you right back into them. It was easier just to ski in the ruts.

As a member of Community of Christ we are admonished to take the path of the disciple; a path of learning, sharing, reconciling, seeking justice, peace and light (CCS 558). We need to take the path where there are more possibilities, more ways to serve, better snow—so to speak. However, after several years, the trail narrows, and we are often unable to avoid the easier path. Doctrine and Covenants 162:3a tells us, “*Do not be discouraged. You have not been promised an easy path, but you have been assured that the Spirit that calls you will also accompany you.*”

With the Spirit, we can change those “ruts” into “grooves.” So, you may be asking, “How is that different?” A groove is a river of motion, moving forward along a path, but it is not confining like a rut. It is like waterskiing.

Behind the boat is its wake; inside the wake the water is somewhat rough, outside the wake the water is smooth. That glassy water beckons. It's scary but once you cross over the large ridge of the wake, even though you are still being pulled in the direction of the boat, you have the freedom to dance over the water.

From Doctrine and Covenants 163:9, “*Faithful disciples respond to an increasing awareness of the abundant generosity of God by sharing according to the desires of their hearts; not by commandment or constraint. Break free of the shackles of conventional culture that mainly promote self-serving interests. Give generously according to your true capacity. Eternal joy and peace await those who grow in the grace of generosity that flows from compassionate hearts without thought of return.*”

As the year 2016 progresses, the leadership of our congregation will be making changes. Some will continue in their current positions but with new visions; many will be stepping aside to share in other directions. They will leave voids waiting to be filled. You, the members of our congregation, are being called to break free, get out of the rut, move forward, and look at the tasks. See which one is calling to you. From Doctrine and Covenants 164:9e, “*Will you remain hesitant in the shadows of your fears, insecurities, and competing loyalties? Or will you move forward in the light of your divinely instilled call and vision?*” In the October *Herald*, David Brock asks, “What is your destiny?” Will you remain in a rut and take the



easy path, or will you stretch your limits, cross the wake, and dance in the joy of serving?

*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.*

### Communicator

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## 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	3,343.60	2,955.35	6,298.95
September	2,260.50	2,653.50	4,914.00
October	3,748.16	2,244.50	5,992.66
November	3,848.00	2,502.00	6,350.00
December	4,294.00	3,738.50	8,032.50
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 40,718.41</b>	<b>\$ 33,693.87</b>	<b>\$ 74,412.28</b>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>45%</b>	

### Financial Report



#### December Income

##### World Church

Use where needed most	\$3,910.00
Abolish Poverty/End Suffering	314.00
Invite People to Christ	30.00
Pursue Peace on Earth	5.00
Develop Disciples to Serve	30.00
Experience Congregations in Mission	5.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,294.00</b>

##### Local

Local Offering	\$3,738.50
Building Fund	50.00
Youth	66.00
Two-Cents-a-Meal	101.00
Family Assistance	70.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,025.50</b>
—Betty Jones, CFO	

### February Birthdays



Susanna Garner	2/4
Marie Ytell	2/5
Hoss Davis	2/5
Jacee Davis	2/5
Donna Palmer	2/6
Don Worthington	2/10
Brett McKenzie	2/14
Janny Kay McKenzie	2/16
Gene Bridwell	2/17
Jean Newman	2/19
Teri Bridwell	2/20
Ruth Chatburn	2/20
Marcia Bridwell	2/22
Joyce Worthington	2/24
Elias Bencomo	2/28



## Save The Date!

100-Year-Anniversary  
Celebration of the Fort Collins  
Congregation  
October 15-16, 2016

The committee wants to notify former members. If you have current contact information (check your Christmas-card list), please notify Marilyn Garner.

## February Calendar

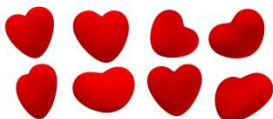


Check the website:

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

- Feb. 3: Pastors Meeting, 1:30 p.m.  
Worship Coordinators, 3:00 p.m.  
Leadership Council, 4:00 p.m.
- Feb. 7: Classes, 9:45 a.m.  
Communion Service, 11:00 a.m.  
First-Sunday Giving  
Potluck, 12:15 p.m.
- Feb. 8: PFLAG, 7:00 p.m.
- Feb. 10: Ash Wednesday. Lent begins.
- Feb. 14: Classes, 9:45 a.m.  
Worship, 11:00 a.m.  
Two-Cents-a-Meal Offering
- Feb. 21: Classes, 9:45 a.m.  
Worship, 11:00 a.m.  
*Communicator* items due.  
Third-Sunday Social, 5:00 p.m.
- Feb. 25: Book Club, 1:00 p.m.
- Feb. 27: Saturday Morning Homeless Breakfast  
(all are welcome to come by and help),  
8:00 a.m.-noon
- Feb. 28: Classes, 9:45 a.m.  
Worship, 11:00 a.m.

## February Third-Sunday Social



February 21, Red Heart Desserts, 5:00 p.m.



## Book Club News

The book club will meet on February 25, at 1:00 p.m. Watch the Sunday announcements for place and book to be discussed.



## Looking for Work

**David Bryant** is looking for work. Odd jobs (cleaning, painting), or part-time, full-time work. If you have some jobs you need help with or know of any possible full or part-time work, please let David know.



## Speakers, Planners, Keyboard, Greeters, and Nursery

### Speakers

- ❖ Feb. 7: Dave Simons
- ❖ Feb. 14: Shirley Remmenga
- ❖ Feb 21: Rich Kohlman
- ❖ Feb. 28: Gil Pagat

### Planners

- ❖ Feb. 7: Donna Clark
- ❖ Feb. 14: Ruth Chatburn
- ❖ Feb 21: Kay Bunch
- ❖ Feb. 28: Marilyn Garner

### Keyboard

- ❖ Feb. 7: Tom Beck
- ❖ Feb. 14: Sharon Fulton
- ❖ Feb 21: Jean Newman
- ❖ Feb. 28: Kay Bunch

### Greeters

- ❖ February: Rich and Mary Kohlman

### Nursery

- ❖ Feb. 7: Marilyn Garner
- ❖ Feb. 14: Bettie Miller
- ❖ Feb 21: Marta Remmenga
- ❖ Feb. 28: Mary Kohlman



**Gabe Pagat**, along with tennis partner Tristan Faust, has been selected to the Northern Colorado All-Area Boys Tennis First Team by the *Coloradoan* newspaper. This No. 1 doubles team, both seniors, from Fossil Ridge High School took second at regionals to make the 5A state tournament. They won their first-round match in straight sets before losing in the second. Gabe, his partner, and more than 450 other student-athletes will be honored at a Sports Awards show on May 17 where Peyton Manning will speak.



### **The Light Before Christmas**

A HUGE thank you to all the people who contributed to the success of *The Light Before Christmas*, our annual Christmas program at the church. The actors all took their parts seriously and were well-prepared to bring this enlightening Christmas celebration to our audience. The children contributed good ideas to make the scenes stronger. Other people who worked behind the scenes included Carrie Newman (costumes), Bill and Pat Miner (reception), Nancy and Logan Miller (stocking favors), those who transported kids and stayed to help, those who brought yummy cookies, and everyone else who gladly contributed time and talent to this joyous undertaking. The last thank you goes out to our appreciative and supportive congregation.

Sharon and Bob Fulton,  
Debbie and Gary Jones

## **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**

### **Blessings of Community**

- The gospel of Jesus Christ is expressed best in community life where people become vulnerable to God’s grace and each other.
- True community includes compassion for and solidarity with the poor, marginalized, and oppressed.
- True community upholds the worth of persons while providing a healthy alternative to self-centeredness, isolation, and conformity.
- Sacred community provides nurture and growth opportunities for all people, especially those who cannot fully care for themselves.
- We value our connections and share a strong sense of trust in and belonging with one another—even if we never have met.
- Some disciples are called and ordained to particular priesthood responsibilities and ministries for the sake of the community, the congregation, and the world.
- We are called to create communities of Christ’s peace in our families and congregations and across villages, tribes, nations, and throughout creation.



## What do we believe?

Jesus Christ is at the center of our faith and beliefs. These Basic Beliefs are not the last word, but an invitation to further explore your discipleship.

### God

We believe in one living God who meets us in the testimony of Israel, is revealed in Jesus Christ, and moves through all creation as the Holy Spirit. We affirm the Trinity—God who is a community of three persons. All things that exist owe their being to God: mystery beyond understanding and love beyond imagination. This God alone is worthy of our worship.

### Jesus Christ

We believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God, the Word made flesh, the Savior of the world, fully human and fully divine. Through Jesus' life and ministry, death and resurrection, God reconciles the world and breaks down the walls that divide. Christ is our peace. Learn more about our belief in Jesus Christ.

### The Holy Spirit

We believe in the Holy Spirit, Giver of Life, holy Wisdom, true God. The Spirit moves through and sustains creation; endows the church for mission; frees the world from sin, injustice, and death; and transforms disciples. Wherever we find love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, or self-control, there the Holy Spirit is working.

*(We will expand on three more next month.)*

[Creation](#)

[Humanity](#)

[Sin](#)

[Salvation](#)

[The Church](#)

[Revelation](#)

[Scripture](#)

[Sacraments](#)

[Discipleship](#)

[Ministry](#)

[The Reign of God](#)

[Peace](#)

[Resurrection and Eternal Life](#)

[Judgment](#)

[End Time](#)