

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.



July 2016

Communicator

A monthly newsletter of



Community of Christ



Fort Collins, Colorado

A Welcoming Congregation

For everyone born, a place at the table

“Prayer Is Not Enough”

—Rich Kohlman, Communication and Managerial Pastor

Over the last year, we have endured in the United States the continuing tragedy of mass killings. After each event, our political leaders have expressed their concern, grief, and prayers for the families and communities affected.

Recently, however, a new expression has appeared. “Prayer is not enough!” It is a recognition that while prayer has its place in bringing healing, prayer alone is not enough to solve the problem of why we are having so many mass killings and what we might do to bring some solutions to this serious problem. One of the problems is that Congress will not let any government studies take place that might give us some insight on what we need to address and how.

My purpose here, however, is not to address mass killings, but to lift up the reality that what we are called to do as followers of Christ is to answer the “enough.”

Matthew 25:35-40 is a good primer on teaching us appropriate responses to the conditions we find in our world. It calls us beyond the prayers we offer in church and at home as we view the beauty of nature and as we hear needs expressed.

“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.” Then the righteous will answer him,

“Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?” And the king will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”

Rick Bunch reminded us in a recent service through readings and pictures that we are all faces of God. It reminded us to “look into the face of every person and see there the wonder of life, the greatest miracle.”

In our most recently accepted section to the Doctrine and Covenants, 165:1a, d, and e, we find these words:

- 1 a. Community of Christ, a divine vision is set before you. Presented over the years through various inspired phrases and symbols, it is expressed now through initiatives in harmony with Jesus Christ's mission.**
- d. Undertake compassionate and just actions to abolish poverty and end needless suffering. Pursue peace on and for the Earth.**
- e. Let nothing separate you from this mission. It reveals divine intent for personal, societal, and environmental salvation; a fullness of gospel witness for creation's restoration.**

From Matthew 25, to *Faces of God*, to Section 165, the call is clear, *prayer is not enough*. Let us as a congregation continue to deepen our journey in bringing hope and love and healing through concrete actions in our community to all people we encounter and to the physical world in which we live and are blessed by.

Communicator

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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

Third-Sunday Social



Third-Sunday Social scheduled for July is being moved to the second Sunday, July 10. There will be karaoke and a time to honor Betty Jones for her 35+ years of service as CFO. Start time will be 5:00 p.m.

Financial Report



May Income

World Church

Use where needed most	\$3,770.00
Abolish Poverty/End Suffering	328.00
Invite People to Christ	0.00
Pursue Peace on Earth	0.00
Develop Disciples to Serve	0.00
Experience Congregations in Mission	25.00
World Conference	50.00
Total	\$4,173.00

Local

Local Offering	\$3,892.90
Building Fund	215.00
Youth	10.00
Two-Cents-a-Meal	97.93
Family Assistance	75.00
Rockies Family Camp	20.00
Total	\$4,310.83

—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	3,310.50	3,602.00	6,912.50
February	2,524.00	2,731.50	5,255.50
March	3,612.00	3,344.00	6,956.00
April	4,049.00	3,892.03	7,941.03
May	4,173.00	3,892.90	8,065.90
June			-
July			-
August			-
September			-
October			-
November			-
December			-
TOTALS	\$ 17,668.50	\$ 17,462.43	\$ 35,130.93
Balance	50%	50%	



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. We plan to have "postcards" for our local members to send to anyone they think might be interested in coming. Contact Dave Simons if you need some.

July Calendar



Check the website:

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

- July 3: Fellowship time, 9:30 a.m.
Communion Service, 10:00 a.m.
First-Sunday Giving
No Potluck
- July 4: Independence Day
- July 6: Pastors Meeting, 1:30 p.m.
Worship Coordinators, 3:00 p.m.
Leadership Council, 4:00 p.m.
- July 9-16: Big Spruce Reunion
- July 10: No Local Service. Meet at La Paz with Greeley and Loveland.
Third-Sunday Social on the second Sunday. Karaoke and honoring Betty Jones 35+ years of service as CFO at 5:00 p.m.
- July 11: PFLAG, 7:00 p.m.
- July 14: Priesthood Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- July 17: Fellowship time, 9:30 a.m.
Worship, 10:00 a.m.
- July 23: Saturday Morning Homeless Breakfast (all are welcome to come by and help), 8:00 a.m.-noon
- July 23-30: Spectacular
- July 24: Fellowship time, 9:30 a.m.
Worship, 10:00 a.m.
- July 31: Pancake Breakfast, 9:00 a.m.
Worship, 10:00 a.m.



Speakers, Planners, Keyboard, Greeters, and Nursery

Speakers

- ❖ July 3: TBD
- ❖ July 10: LA PAZ
- ❖ July 17: Deb Friesz
- ❖ July 24: Gil Pagat
- ❖ July 31: Nancy Miller

Planners

- ❖ July 3: Dave Simons
- ❖ July 10: LA PAZ
- ❖ July 17: Mary Kohlman
- ❖ July 24: Nancy Miller
- ❖ July 31: Jean Newman

Keyboard

- ❖ July 3: Tom Beck
- ❖ July 10: LA PAZ
- ❖ July 17: Sharon Fulton
- ❖ July 24: Jean Newman
- ❖ July 31: Deb Friesz

Greeters

- ❖ July: Kathy Bridwell and Betty Jones

Nursery

- ❖ July 3: Debbie Jones
- ❖ July 10: LA PAZ
- ❖ July 17: Bettie Miller
- ❖ July 24: Marta Remmenga
- ❖ July 31: Voni Simons



Book Club News

No June, July, or August meetings. We will resume again in September.



Directory Update

Joyce Jordeth

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Phone remains the same: (970) 493-2746



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. To read the complete content go to: <http://www.cofchrist.org/basic-beliefs>

God

Jesus Christ

The Holy Spirit

Creation

Humanity

Sin

Salvation

The Church

Revelation

Scripture

Sacraments

Discipleship

Ministry

Ministry is humble service offered according to the model of Jesus, who calls every disciple to share in ministry for the world. Some disciples are called by God and ordained to priesthood offices to serve the mission of the church in specialized ways. The Holy Spirit gives complementary gifts and abilities to all disciples to equip the body of Christ for its witness in the world.

The Reign of God

The Reign of God is the coming triumph of love, justice, mercy, and peace that one day will embrace all of creation. Jesus' life and ministry were the living expression of this promise. He taught his disciples to pray for the kingdom's full coming and sent them out into the world to be living emblems of that new creation. "Zion" expresses our commitment to herald God's peaceable kingdom on Earth by forming Christ-centered communities in families, congregations, neighborhoods, cities, and throughout the world.

Peace

Peace is God's shalom: justice, righteousness, wholeness, and the well-being of the entire creation. Jesus, the Prince of Peace, came to preach the kingdom and to be our peace through the cross. The Holy Spirit empowers us for the costly pursuit of peace and justice for all people.

Resurrection and Eternal Life

Judgment

End Time

Doctrine and Covenants 165

For three years the church prayerfully studied the words of counsel given in 2013. The Holy Spirit confirms the church would be blessed by considering this counsel for inclusion in the Doctrine and Covenants. This document is offered humbly for that purpose as an expression of our cherished principle of Continuing Revelation. While preparing the final document, I stayed open to more divine direction that might enhance the church's understanding now or in the future. Guidance refined some sentences. In several instances, it also added content for reasons known to God. I also considered prayerfully what portions of the words of counsel applied specifically to when they were given and did not necessarily need to be in the Doctrine and Covenants. So some sentences have been removed. Those sentences either have fulfilled their purposes, or the concepts they highlighted are expressed sufficiently elsewhere in the Doctrine and Covenants. The testimony I offer is assurance that God, the eternal One, lovingly and patiently guides the church according to divine purposes. Let us be grateful for that guidance. May it serve as a pathway of light and hope for all who seek to follow God's will.

To the councils, quorums, and orders, to the World Conference, and to the church:

- 1 a. Community of Christ, a divine vision is set before you. Presented over the years through various inspired phrases and symbols, it is expressed now through initiatives in harmony with Jesus Christ's mission.
- b. As a spiritual venture, boldly follow the initiatives into the heart of God's vision for the church and creation. Then, in response to growing insight about God's nature and will, continue to shape communities that live Christ's love and mission.
- c. Lovingly invite others to experience the good news of new life in community with Christ.

Opportunities abound in your daily lives if you choose to see them.

- d. Undertake compassionate and just actions to abolish poverty and end needless suffering. Pursue peace on and for the Earth.
 - e. Let nothing separate you from this mission. It reveals divine intent for personal, societal, and environmental salvation; a fullness of gospel witness for creation's restoration.
 - f. Continue to align your priorities with local and worldwide church efforts to move the initiatives forward. Additional innovative approaches to coordinating congregational life and supporting groups of disciples and seekers are needed to address mission opportunities in a changing world.
- 2 a. Free the full capacity of Christ's mission through generosity that imitates God's generosity.
 - b. Listen to the testimonies of those responding generously. Follow your soul's yearning to come home to God's grace and generosity. Let gratitude show you the way.
 - c. Remember, a basic discipleship principle is growing Christ's mission through local and world mission tithes according to true capacity. Giving to other worthwhile organizations, while an important part of A Disciple's Generous Response, should not diminish or replace mission tithes.
 - d. Tithing is a spiritual practice that demonstrates willingness to offer every dimension of one's life to God. When defined by faith, love, and hopeful planning, including resolving unwise debt, capacity to respond becomes much greater than initially assumed.
 - e. Stewardship as response to the ministry of Christ is more than individual giving. It includes the generosity of congregations and jurisdictions that give to worldwide ministries of the church to strengthen community in Christ in all nations.
 - f. Sharing for the common good is the spirit of Zion.
- 3 a. More fully embody your oneness and equality in Jesus Christ. Oneness and equality in Christ are realized through the waters of baptism, confirmed by the Holy Spirit, and

sustained through the sacrament of Communion. Embrace the full meaning of these sacraments and be spiritually joined in Christ as never before.

b. However, it is not right to profess oneness and equality in Christ through sacramental covenants and then to deny them by word or action. Such behavior wounds Christ's body and denies what is resolved eternally in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

c. You do not fully understand many interrelated processes of human creation. Through its wonderful complexity, creation produces diversity and order.

d. Be not consumed with concern about variety in human types and characteristics as you see them. Be passionately concerned about forming inclusive communities of love, oneness, and equality that reveal divine nature.

e. Oneness and equality in Christ do not mean uniformity. They mean Unity in Diversity and relating in Christ-like love to the circumstances of others as if they were one's own. They also mean full opportunity for people to experience human worth and related rights, including expressing God-given giftedness in the church and society.

4 a. Regarding priesthood, God calls whomever God calls from among committed disciples, according to their gifts, to serve and reach all humankind.

b. Priesthood policies developed through wisdom and inspiration provide a clear way for disciples to respond to calling. They also define the difference between a sense of call as potential and the need to align one's life with principles of moral behavior and relationships that promote the well-being of the church community.

5 a. Spiritual growth and guidance enrich involvement in Christ's mission. The presiding evangelist and the Order of Evangelists, with their colleagues in ministry, should concentrate on spiritually forming communities of disciples and seekers that live deeply and generously in Christ's Spirit.

b. Offer the sacrament of evangelist blessing not only to individuals and congregations, but

to families, households, and groups seeking spiritual guidance to more completely give themselves to Christ's mission. Nothing in this instruction should be construed to lessen the importance of the sacrament of evangelist blessing for individuals.

6 a. Beloved Community of Christ, do not just speak and sing of Zion. Live, love, and share as Zion: those who strive to be visibly one in Christ, among whom there are no poor or oppressed.

b. As Christ's body, lovingly and patiently bear the weight of criticism from those who hesitate to respond to the divine vision of human worth and equality in Christ. This burden and blessing is yours for divine purposes.

c. And, always remember, the way of suffering love that leads to the cross also leads to resurrection and everlasting life in Christ's eternal community of oneness and peace. Trust in this promise.

Stephen M. Veazey
president of the church