

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



May 2016



“What Path Will You Travel?”

—Dave Simons, Pastoral Ministries Pastor

I'm often attracted to catchy slogans, phrases, and hints intended to help “keep me in line.” Expressions like “Stand up straight,” “Keep your eyes on the road,” or like a recent reminder from my grandson, “Grampa, don't text at the table!” are all very meaningful and serve to align me with what is important and helpful in my life.

Over the past few months the pastorate and Leadership Council have engaged in an effort to write a Mission Statement to present to the congregation. This was approved by vote of the body, and now we have that before us as a statement of our mission and purpose. Our combined task now is to “put some flesh on the bones” so that it can more readily and effectively serve as a guide for us on our journey ahead. Our call always is for “Christ's Mission to Be Our Mission.” (This, too, is a phrase that compels me to live out what I believe to be my calling and gives me direction.) The congregational retreat on April 23 gives us opportunity to discuss and share how we can become better equipped to be that “faithful witness.”

The second “bullet” of our Mission Statement speaks to “strengthening our discipleship.” We

look for ways that our lives can be living expressions of Christ working within and through us. Hopefully, that strengthening occurs in our worship, fellowship, and at times when we serve together by helping others in our community.

Rocky Mountain Mission Center president, Shandra Newcom, shared this poem/prayer, written by Joyce Rupp (from *Prayers to Sophia*), recently in the Weekly Update. Perhaps it will give strength to you as it has me.

A Poem by Joyce Rupp:

“Wise and Faithful Guide,
keep my spirit entwined with yours.
Teach me about the poor and the pained.
Fill me with your mercy and compassion.
Help me find your peace in my troubled moments.
Let love be the response I give to those who oppose me.
Constantly draw me toward all that is good.

Urge me to give my best to those who need it.
Lead me to learn from my discouragement and struggles.
Be the light I need to find my way in the darkness.
Fill my hollowness and emptiness with your love.

Most of all, continue to dwell with me because your gracious presence is all I ever need.
It is enough to bring me through the deepest canyons and the darkest crevices of my life.

Divine Companion, draw me to your heart where wisdom resides and daily let me choose to follow in your way. Amen.”

Take good care!

Financial Report



February Income

World Church

Use where needed most	\$1,987.00
Abolish Poverty/End Suffering	547.00
Invite People to Christ	5.00
Pursue Peace on Earth	10.00
Develop Disciples to Serve	10.00
Experience Congregations in Mission	30.00
Total	\$2,589.00

Local

Local Offering	\$2,731.50
Building Fund	50.00
Youth	40.00
Two-Cents-a-Meal	54.00
Family Assistance	132.00
Red-Heart Dinner	50.00
Total	\$3,057.50

March Income

World Church

Use where needed most	\$3,357.00
Abolish Poverty/End Suffering	300.00
Invite People to Christ	5.00
Pursue Peace on Earth	5.00
Develop Disciples to Serve	5.00
Experience Congregations in Mission	5.00
Total	\$3,677.00

Local

Local Offering	\$3,344.00
Building Fund	60.00
Youth	46.00
Two-Cents-a-Meal	79.00
Family Assistance	438.63
Total	\$3,967.63

—Betty Jones, CFO

Communicator

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Fort Collins Congregation Offerings 2015 Disciples' Generous Response

Month	Total World Initiatives	Total Local Operating	Total Operating Giving
January	3,355.00	3,602.00	6,957.00
February	2,589.00	2,731.50	5,320.50
March	3,677.00	3,344.00	7,021.00
April			-
May			-
June			-
July			-
August			-
September			-
October			-
November			-
December			-
TOTALS	\$ 9,621.00	\$ 9,677.50	\$ 19,298.50
Balance	50%	50%	

May Birthdays



Porter Garner	5/3
Voni Simons	5/4
Awtumn Alcoser	5/10
Rose Julch	5/15
Jim Miller	5/15
Lisa Garner	5/25
Toni Martinez	5/25



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" to pass out at World Conference and for our local members to send to anyone they think might be interested in coming. They will be available the end of May.

May Calendar

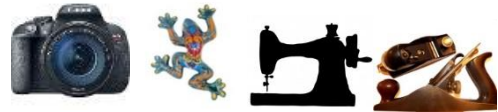
Check the website:

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

- May 1: Classes, 9:45 a.m.
Communion Service, 11:00 a.m.
First-Sunday Giving
Potluck, 12:15 p.m.
- May 4: Pastors Meeting, 1:30 p.m.
Worship Coordinators, 3:00 p.m.
Leadership Council, 4:00 p.m.
- May 5: Graceland University Choir Concert,
7:30 p.m.
- May 8: Classes, 9:45 a.m.
Worship, 11:00 a.m.
Two-Cents-a-Meal Offering
- May 9: PFLAG, 7:00 p.m.
- May 15: Classes, 9:45 a.m.
Worship, 11:00 a.m.
Third-Sunday Social, 5:00 p.m.
- May 21: Luella Foster Memorial Service, 3:00
p.m.
- May 22: Classes, 9:45 a.m.
Worship, 11:00 a.m.
- May 26: Book Club, 1:00 p.m.
- May 28: Saturday Morning Homeless Breakfast
(all are welcome to come by and help),
8:00 a.m.-noon
- May 29: Fifth-Sunday pancakes and fellowship,
9:30 a.m.
Worship, 11:00 a.m.
- May 30: Memorial Day

May Third-Sunday Social

Annual Artisan Show



May 15, Annual Artisan Show, 5:00 p.m.
Planners: Joan Green, Jean/Jan Newman,
Wendell and Lillian Wallace, Rich and Mary
Kohlman, and Tom Beck and Max Coopwood.
Get your crafts ready to share with the
congregation. Watch the bulletin for more
information



Book Club News

The book for the May meeting will be chosen at
the April meeting. We will meet at Ruth
Chatburn's at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 26.

We always welcome anyone who would like to
come, even if they haven't read the book!



Speakers, Planners, Keyboard, Greeters, and Nursery

Speakers

- ❖ May 1: Sharon Troyer
- ❖ May 8:
- ❖ May 15:
- ❖ May 22: Rich Kohlman
- ❖ May 29:

Planners

- ❖ May 1: Bettie Miller
- ❖ May 8:
- ❖ May 15:

- ❖ May 22:
- ❖ May 29:

Keyboard

- ❖ May 1: Deb Friesz
- ❖ May 8: Tom Beck
- ❖ May 15: Jean Newman
- ❖ May 22: Kay Bunch
- ❖ May 29: Sharon Fulton

Greeters

- ❖ May: Dave and Voni Simons

Nursery

- ❖ May 1: Debbie Jones
- ❖ May 8: Bettie Miller
- ❖ May 15: Marta Remmenga
- ❖ May 22: Pat and Bill Miner
- ❖ May 29: Rose Julch

Old-Fashioned Campfire Pictures



Wonderful food



S'mores being prepared



Shirley Remmenga enjoying the fellowship



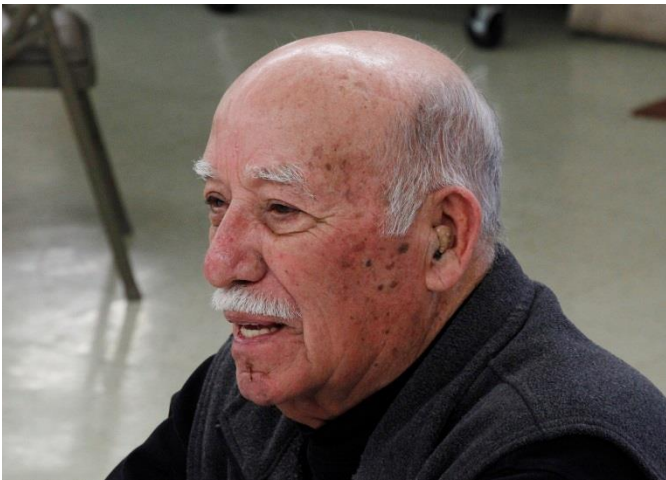
Sharon Troyer and Morgan Bradford conversing



A beautiful campfire



Six elephants went out to play.....



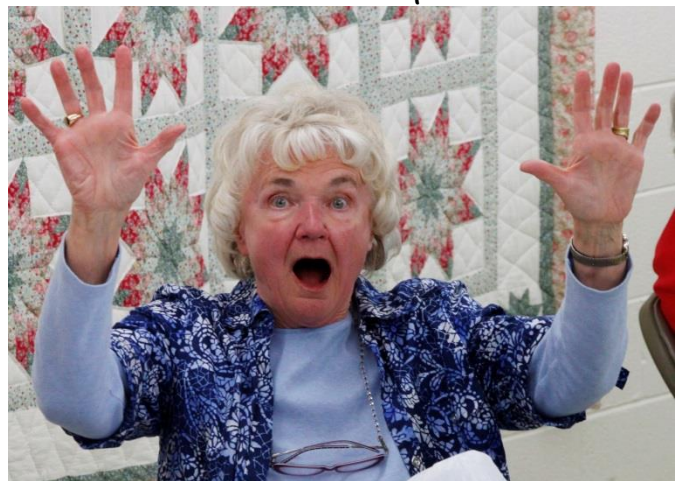
Paul considers another hamburger.



Rick leads the campfire.



Tom enjoys the s'more to the last bite.



How many s'mores did you have, Mary Jane?



Jon pontificates, Danise pretends to listen.



Bettie thinks, "I can eat this s'more without getting sticky fingers!"

From Nuts to Stewardship

“Stewardship is the response of my people to the ministry of my son and is required alike of all those who seek to build the kingdom.”
Doctrine and Covenants 147:5a

It is often said that the red squirrel, mighty denizen of forest and neighborhood, is busy, thrifty, and wise when it comes to hiding nuts and other resources in preparation for the long winter ahead. Then comes winter, followed by spring, and the squirrel has no vivid recollection as to where the food is stored. There is no catalog, maps, or remembrance guiding the search. With neither a CPA nor GPS to guide its inquiry, the squirrel faces diminishing returns on its investments.

Humans are sometimes like that. We have resources, but, much like the servant who hid his talent, (Matthew 25:15-30) our resources are of little value, nor will they increase, unless we have access to them and a plan of investment for their use.

Resources of our spiritual being are too often squandered through lack of exercise. It would behoove each of us to look inward with an eye toward assessment. What is our passion? Is it aflame or simply on pilot light? What is it we have to offer by way of fiscal resource or innate ability or even talent, which we could cultivate and exercise in worship, in visiting, and in relationships? Simply put, what turns us on and how will we respond? Are there burning desires within us that need to be stoked by the Good Spirit's fire and laid on the altar of love in the name of ministry to God's people?

New Year's resolutions are behind us now and the year well on its journey. Are you the squirrel or the nut? Are you hiding or providing? Need a match?

—Rick Bunch



Bazaar News

During 2015, the Bazaar made \$359 which the afternoon Women's Group decided to give to the Youth Fund. December was our best month with an income of \$66.00. Tea Towel sets seems to be our best selling item. They are the expert work of Joyce Jordeth. We received income most months except for August and September. I will try to keep you posted every quarter during 2016.

Watch for it in June's *Communicator*.

—Betty Jones



Directory Update

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As a prophetic people you are called, under the direction of the spiritual authorities and with the common consent of the people, to discern the divine will for your own time and in the places where you serve. You live in a world with new challenges, and that world will require new forms of ministry. The priesthood must especially respond to that challenge, and the church is admonished to prayerfully consider how calling and giftedness in the Community of Christ can best be expressed in a new time.

—Doctrine and Covenants 162:2c



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 gospel is the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ: forgiveness of sin, and healing from separation, brokenness, and the power of violence and death. This healing is for individuals, human societies, and all of creation. This new life is the loving gift of God's grace that becomes ours through faith and repentance. Baptism is how we initially express our commitment to lifelong discipleship. As we yield our lives to Christ in baptism, we enter Christian community (the body of Christ) and have the promise of salvation. We experience salvation through Jesus Christ, but affirm that God's grace has no bounds, and God's love is greater than we can know.

The Church

God intends Christian faith to be lived in companionship with Jesus Christ and with other disciples in service to the world. The church of Jesus Christ is made of all those who respond to Jesus' call. Community of Christ is part of the whole body of Christ. We are called to be a prophetic people, proclaiming the peace of Jesus Christ and creating communities where all will be welcomed and brought into renewed relationship with God, and where there will be no poor.

Revelation

We affirm the Living God is ever self-revealing. God is revealed to the world in the testimony of Israel, and above all in Jesus Christ. By the Holy Spirit we continue to hear God speaking today. The church is called to listen together for what the Spirit is saying and then faithfully respond.

(We will expand on three more of the following next month.)

Scripture

Sacraments

Discipleship

Ministry

The Reign of God

Peace

Resurrection and Eternal Life

Judgment

End Time