

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.



September 2016

Communicator

A monthly newsletter of



Community of Christ



Fort Collins, Colorado

A Welcoming Congregation

For everyone born, a place at the table

“Life Can Be What We Make of It”

—Kay Bunch, Outreach Ministries Pastor

It can be said that so much of what we read and hear today can be characterized as anger and negativity out of control. That would include everything from rude drivers and resulting road rage to a paralysis in our government system and election campaigns that focus squarely on personality rather than issue. As individuals we would do well to pursue a process which turns our collective frown upside down creating better discussions, attitudes, and relationships. We are talking about human beings who get up in the morning, eat breakfast—maybe something bad happens to them, maybe something good happens to them—but their negative emotions don't take over their day without their permission.

In so many ways, human existence can be related to a jigsaw puzzle. Each decision, each action, each response to stimulus, each experience fits together to make up a picture of life itself. One would hope that the exercise of putting those pieces together would form a picture of joy and fulfillment. The words and phrases that follow are ideas and possibilities for life's pieces that—when assembled together—may offer such a pleasing picture worthy of pursuit.

“Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a

life or situation around.”—Leo Buscaglia, *How to Hug a Porcupine*

“The real moral goals of the gospel: loving enemies, caring for the powerless, overlooking personal offenses, living simple, eschewing riches—achieved through surrender and participation. We don't need to be perfect or make impossible demands upon ourselves. We can be human, humble and honest.” Richard Rohr, **Meditation**, 7/21/16

In *The Mountain Scribe Anthology 2011*, sponsored by the City of Fort Collins Recreation Department, Norma Glad has an article titled, “A Personal Transformation.” In the article she mentions that sometimes our stomach is churning: we are full of anger and the anger of our emotions takes over. We can feel the anger



energy throughout our body. She heard some music that swept away her anger and fear, which a few minutes ago had seemed so powerful. Now her

anger energy jumped into the music and became jazz. “I took my personal power back. After all, God is really in charge.” Like Norma may our response to anger be, “I will try to be peaceful in my heart and soul, work on peace in relationships, sometimes as simple as making eye contact or a smile, or a thank you to all I meet...God, let there be peace and let it begin with me.”

At our congregational retreat this spring, Shandra Newcom said to us, “The Fort Collins

congregation is a gift to the community. So, what do you want to do with it and what are you going to do with it?"

The 5-3-2 Plan (adapted from a Mayo Clinic program developed by Dr. Amit Sood—Professor of Medicine) offers the Consistent Practice of 3 Simple Exercises that can transform lives and relationships:

5 people—let your first thought, the moment you wake up, be of GRATITUDE for 5 people in your life you are grateful for.

3 minutes—for the first 3 minutes you meet your family, a friend, colleague, or neighbor. You greet them whole-heartedly and resolve not to improve or judge anyone for 3 minutes.

2 seconds—the first 2-seconds when you see another person send a silent "I wish you well." Practice any of these exercises throughout the day. I personally have been practicing this exercise for quite a while and it continues to help me feel positive and happy each day.

President Steve Veazey, in his talk the last Sunday of our mission center reunion, told a story from the book, *The Blue Mountains of China*, about a Mennonite family and the many moves they made throughout their life. The father asked his children, "Do you really love me?" He said, "You answer that question with your lives. That is how you show how much you love me. Your life shows me your love for me."

The Sister Mary Alice Murphy Center for Hope hosted a fund raiser Community Dinner recently at the Masonic Lodge. Many from the homeless community who attended the dinner expressed gratitude for the Center staff and the way they are always greeted with a smile from so many who work there. It means the world to them, and these may be the only people who smile at them all day or with whom they have a positive encounter.

From the "Work of the People" web-site—How do we connect with our neighbors? Learn to sense when the Spirit is at work. God is always at work. God is always inviting.

"Competition is important and entertaining, but humanity is more so." Quote from the Olympic track girls who fell and who helped each other up during a race.

A group of women who exercise "Random Acts of Kindness" said a warm and welcoming greeting that helps a woman realize she is loved for herself and not just for what she knows may be highly valued. We don't know when someone needs our act of kindness.

Finally, from I Corinthians 13:1-3 (The Message Bible): "If I speak with human eloquence and angelic ecstasy but don't love, I'm nothing but the creaking of a rusty gate. If I speak God's Word with power, revealing all his mysteries and making everything plain as day, and if I have faith that says to a mountain, 'Jump,' and it jumps, but I don't love, I'm nothing. If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr, but I don't love, I've gotten nowhere. So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love."

So, in a world full of negativity and anger, what contribution do you make toward a world filled with love and peace? It begins with us individually, you know. Please enjoy putting the pieces of your life's puzzle together to produce a meaningful picture. Best wishes as you discover your own pieces to the puzzle which create the picture of your life. Happy puzzling.



Communicator

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September Birthdays



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

September Third-Sunday Social



The Third-Sunday Social for September will be Game Night. Planners are: Glenn and Shari Smith, Jon Ytell and Marta Remmenga, Ken Jones, and Marilyn Garner. Watch for updates in the Sunday bulletin and in your e-mail.

Upcoming Socials

October 16	Harvest Party
November 20	Holiday Dinner

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.

Doctrine and Covenants 165:1c

Financial Report



July Income

World Church

Use where needed most	\$2,797.23
Abolish Poverty/End Suffering	315.50
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	\$3,132.73

Local

Local Offering	\$2,911.50
Building Fund	100.00
Two-Cents-a-Meal	20.00
Family Assistance	85.00
Youth	165.00
Total	\$3,281.50

—Gary and Ruth Chatburn, CFO

Fort Collins Congregation

Operating Offerings

2016 Disciples' Generous Response

(adjusted)

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	2,478.72	4,910.72
July	3,132.73	2,911.50	6,044.23
August			-
September			-
October			-
November			-
December			-
TOTALS	\$ 21,993.23	\$ 23,266.62	\$ 45,259.85
Balance	49%	51%	

September Calendar



Check the website:

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

- Sep. 4: Fellowship, 9:30 a.m.
Communion Service, 10:00 a.m.
First-Sunday Giving
- Sep. 5: **Labor Day**
- Sep. 7: Pastors Meeting, 1:30 p.m.
Worship Coordinators, 3:00 p.m.
Leadership Council, 4:00 p.m.
- Return to regular meeting times this week.**
- Sep. 11: Adult and youth classes, 9:45 a.m.
Worship, 11:00 a.m.
Two-Cents-a-Meal Offering
- Sep. 12: PFLAG, 7:00 p.m.
- Sep. 17: Preaching Workshop,
9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
- Sep. 18: Adult and youth classes, 9:45 a.m.
Worship, 11:00 a.m.
Business Meeting immediately
following the service.
Communicator items due.
Third-Sunday Social, Game Night,
5:00 p.m.
- Sep. 22: Book Club, 1:00 p.m.
- Sep. 24: Saturday Morning Homeless Breakfast
(all are welcome to come by and help),
8:00 a.m.–noon.
- Sep. 25: Adult and youth classes, 9:45 a.m.
Worship, 11:00 a.m.
- Sep. 26: FFH meal and overnight.
- Sep. 28: FFH meal and overnight.



Book Club News

Book Club resumes meeting in September at 1:00 p.m. Place and book to be determined. Watch the bulletin for more information.



Speakers, Planners, Keyboard, Greeters, and Nursery

Speakers

- ❖ Sep 4: David Nii
- ❖ Sep 11: Gil Pagat
- ❖ Sep 18: Rich Kohlman
- ❖ Sep 25: Deb Friesz

Planners

- ❖ Sep 4: Ruth Chatburn
- ❖ Sep 11: Donna Clark
- ❖ Sep 18: Kay Bunch
- ❖ Sep 25: Marilyn Garner

Keyboard

- ❖ Sep 4: Kay Bunch
- ❖ Sep 11: Jean Newman
- ❖ Sep 18: Deb Friesz
- ❖ Sep 25: Sharon Troyer

Greeters

- ❖ September: Gil and Merly Pagat

Nursery

- ❖ Sep 4: Debbie Jones
- ❖ Sep 11: Bettie Miller
- ❖ Sep 18: Marta Remmenga
- ❖ Sep 25: Mary Kohlman



Save the Date!

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

Saturday afternoon 2:00–4:00 p.m., meet in the Activity Center to view historical items, sharing memories, pictures, dedication of peace pole, and remarks by President Veazey.

6:00 p.m. Banquet and hymn sing. President Veazey will speak.

Sunday, 9:45 a.m. Q&A with President Veazey in the sanctuary.

11:00 a.m. Worship service in the Activity Center with President Veazey speaking.

Preaching Workshop



Attention All Priesthood and Other Interested Parties

Fort Collins Community of Christ congregation will be hosting Mission Center President Shandra Newcom for a preaching workshop on Saturday, September 17, 2016. The workshop titled: **The Preaching Life**, will begin at 9:00 a.m. and run through 3:00 p.m. with lunch provided. If you preach, share the message at church, give testimonies, or are interested in what it means to be a preacher, this workshop is for you! We will discuss what it means to preach the Word with a focus on preparation, preaching the lectionary, style, challenges, and blessings. The text for the class is *The Preaching Life* by Barbara Brown Taylor. You can find it on *Amazon.com* (Kindle or Soft cover). Please read at least Part One before the workshop. To register or ask questions, please contact Dave Simons.

One Less Homeless!

John-Mark and Max moved into their new home in early August. They are so grateful for all you have done to assist them.



From President Veazey's Address
World Conference, April 3, 2016

[S]piritual growth is personal and communal. We grow spiritually as individuals through spiritual practices like prayer and contemplation. We also grow spiritually in communities where the Spirit of Christ dwells deeply in relationships. The path of discipleship is walked best in the close company of other disciples who are growing spiritually.”