

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

April 2017

Spirituality of Trees

—Gil Pagat, Co-Pastor

“Trees purify the air;

They also purify the mind...

If you want to save your world, you must save the trees.”—Lisa Ward

“To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven.”—Ecclesiastes 3:1

Spring is the season to look at the changes in nature and our reconciliation with God. Every shooting leaf tell us that God is waiting for us to return to him. Every budding branch tells us of the love and mercy of God.

Trees have been honored throughout the world. Trees generate oxygen to sustain living breath. They become shelters and burrows for animals of many shapes and sizes, as well as offer resources for food and medicine. They secure ground from erosion, and raw materials garnered from trees provide shelter, warmth, amenities, art, and utensils.

“The tree is one of humankind’s most powerful symbols. It is the embodiment of life in all its realms: the point of union between heaven, earth, and water.”—Lisa Ward

I have chosen to focus on the beauty and majesty of trees—extraordinary beings—as spiritual guides. They are living beings that dwell, rooted in the dense realm of matter extending energy into the far reaches of spirit.

“Trees indeed have hearts,” wrote Henry David Thoreau, “With a certain affection the sun seems to send its farewell ray far and level over the copses of them, and they silently receive it with gratitude, like a group of settlers with their children.”

Trees and humans are often compared to one another: Our legs as the trunks, our arms the branches, our hair leaves, our blood sap.

Three aspects of the living qualities of our relations, trees come to mind as profound spiritual guidance: Deep rootedness, unconditional generosity, and radical acceptance.

Matthew 12:33 *“Either make the tree good and its fruit good; or make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for the tree is known by its fruit.”*

Proverbs 3:18 *“She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, and happy are all who hold her fast.”*

Psalms 1:3 *“He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season and its leaf does not wither, and in whatever he does he prospers.”*

Ilan Shamir expresses it well in his poem:
“Advice from a Tree”

Dear Friend,
Stand tall and Proud
Sink your Roots deeply into the Earth
Reflect the Light of your true nature
Think long term
Go out on a limb

Remember your place among all living beings
 Embrace with joy the changing seasons
 For each yields its own abundance
 The Energy and Birth of Spring
 The Growth and Contentment of Summer
 The Wisdom to let go like leaves in the Fall
 The Rest and Quiet Renewal of Winter

Feel the wind and the sun
 And delight in their presence
 Look up at the moon that shines down upon you
 And the mystery of the stars at night
 Seek nourishment from the good things in life
 Simple pleasures
 Earth, Fresh Air, Light

Be content with your natural beauty
 Drink plenty of water
 Let your limbs sway and dance in the breezes
 Be flexible
 Remember your Roots

Enjoy the View!

Proverbs 11:30 *“The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who is wise wins souls.”*

Financial Report



February Income

World Church

Use where needed most	\$2,415.00
Abolish Poverty/End Suffering	291.86
Total	\$2,706.86

Local

Local Operating	\$3,082.69
Building Fund	435.00
Two-Cents-a-Meal	77.45
Family Assistance	35.00
Youth	10.00
Other	1,063.51
Total	\$4,703.65

—Gary and Ruth Chatburn, CFO

Fort Collins Congregation

Operating Offerings

2017 Disciples' Generous Response

Month	Total World Operating	Local Operating	Total Operating Giving
January	2,788.65	3,149.00	5,937.65
February	2,706.86	3,082.69	5,789.55
March			-
April			-
May			-
June			-
July			-
August			-
September			-
October			-
November			-
December			-
TOTALS	\$ 5,495.51	\$ 6,231.69	\$ 11,727.20
Balance	47%	53%	

Game Night

Pictures by Max Coopwood



April Calendar



Check the website:
<http://cofchristrm.org/FortCollins/>

- Apr. 2: Adult Class, 9:45 a.m.
Communion Service, 11:00 a.m.
First-Sunday Giving
Potluck Today!
- Apr. 5: Worship Coordinators, 3:00 p.m.
Leadership Council, 4:00 p.m.
- Apr. 9: **Palm Sunday**
Adult Class, 9:45 a.m.
Youth Classes, 11:00 a.m.
Worship, 11:00 a.m.
Two-Cents-a-Meal Offering
- Apr. 13: Take-Away Lunch volunteers at
Murphy Center, 10:00–noon
- Apr. 16: **Easter**
Adult Class, 9:45 a.m.
Worship, 11:00 a.m.
Communicator items due.
- Apr. 22: Saturday Morning Homeless Breakfast
(All are welcome to come by and help.)
- Apr. 23: Adult Class, 9:45 a.m.
Youth Classes, 11:00 a.m.
Worship, 11:00 a.m.
- Apr. 27: Book Club, 1:00 p.m.
- Apr. 30: Adult Class, 9:45 a.m.
Worship, 11:00 a.m.
Business Meeting, 12:15 p.m.
**Youth Classes will be held the 2nd
and 4th Sundays of each month at
11:00 a.m.**



April and May Book Club News

Book Club will meet on Thursday, April 27, at 1:00 p.m. at Donna Clark's home. The book is, *Just Mercy*, by Bryan Stevenson. The May book will be, *The Invention of Wings*, by Sue Monk Kidd. The place to meet in May has not yet been determined.



Speakers, Planners, Keyboard, Greeters, and Nursery

Speakers

- ❖ Apr. 2: TBD
- ❖ Apr. 9: Rich Kohlman
- ❖ Apr. 16: Sharon Troyer
- ❖ Apr. 23: Deb Friesz
- ❖ Apr. 30: Nancy Miller

Planners

- ❖ Apr. 2: Bettie Miller
- ❖ Apr. 9: Debbie Jones
- ❖ Apr. 16: Bettie Miller
- ❖ Apr. 23: Deb Friesz
- ❖ Apr. 30: Danise Remmenga

Keyboard

- ❖ Apr. 2: Sharon Fulton
- ❖ Apr. 9: Kay Bunch
- ❖ Apr. 16: Deb Friesz
- ❖ Apr. 23: Sharon Troyer
- ❖ Apr. 30: Tom Beck

Greeters

- ❖ April: Donna Clark and Jean Newman

Nursery

- ❖ Apr. 2: Marilyn Garner
- ❖ Apr. 9: Bettie Miller
- ❖ Apr. 16: Marta Remmenga
- ❖ Apr. 23: Mary Kohlman
- ❖ Apr. 30: Pat Miner

April Birthdays



Tonia Watts	04/01
Ryder Jackson	04/06
Dave Simons	04/19
Cinnamon Garner	04/23
Kay Bunch	04/25
Avery Dicke	04/25
Bettie Miller	04/30