

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.*



August 2017

Communicator

A monthly newsletter of



Community of Christ



Fort Collins, Colorado

A Welcoming Congregation

For everyone born, a place at the table

Waiting with Patience

—Richard Rohr, *Daily Meditation*, July 21, 2017

If you are to live on this earth, you cannot bypass the necessary tension of holding contraries and inconsistencies together. Daily ordinary experiences will teach you nonduality in a way that is no longer theoretical or abstract. It becomes obvious in everything and everybody, every idea and every event, almost hidden in plain sight. Everything created is mortal and limited and, if you look long enough, paradoxical. By paradox, I mean something that initially looks contradictory or impossible, but in a different frame or at a different level is in fact deeply true.

I am talking about just holding the tension, not necessarily finding a resolution or closure to paradox. We must agree to live without resolution, at least for a while. This is very difficult for most people, largely because we have not been taught how to do this mentally or emotionally. We didn't know we could—or even should. As Paul seems to say (and I paraphrase), hope would not be the virtue that it is if it led us to quick closure and we did not have to “wait for it with patience” (Romans 8:24-25).

I think this “opening and holding pattern” is the very name and description of faith. Unfortunately, faith largely became believing things to be true or false (intellectual assent) instead of giving people concrete practices so they could themselves know how to open up (faith), hold on (hope), and allow an infilling

from another source (love). We share a contemplative practice each Saturday in the Daily Meditations so that these virtues can be “practiced.” But God gives us real practices every day of our lives, such as irritable people, long stop lights, and our own inconsistencies.

We must move from a belief-based spirituality to a practice-based spirituality, or little will change in religion, politics, and the world. We will merely continue to argue about what we are supposed to believe and who the unbelievers are.

Consider the wisdom taught in the ancient aphorisms and stories of Hinduism, Confucianism, Taoism, Sufism, Zen, Buddhism, the Jewish prophets, Jesus, Paul, and the Desert Fathers and Mothers. Much of their teaching feels abstruse, naïve, or irrelevant to us today. With only rational, dualistic thought available to most of us, we are unable to decipher koans, proverbs, and parables. For example, the man coming at the last hour receives the same reward as the one who worked all day. This makes no sense at all to a dualistic mind or to anyone who rushes toward a quick judgment. So we reject the story and merely forget that Jesus said it.

We need contemplative practices to loosen our egoic attachment to certainty and retrain our minds to understand the wisdom of paradox.



Toiletries for the FFH Day Center



The Mennonite Day Center for FFH families and families on the wait list need shampoo, conditioner (any size bottles), and toothpaste. Please take donations to the Day Center or give them to Kay Bunch.

August Calendar



Check the website:

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

- Aug. 2: Worship Coordinators, 3:00 p.m.
Leadership Council, 4:00 p.m.
- Aug. 2-6: Rockies Family Camp at Peaceful Valley
- Aug. 6: Worship, 10:00 a.m.
Communion Sunday
First Sunday Giving
- Aug. 10: Take-Away Lunch volunteers at Murphy Center, 10:00-noon
- Aug. 11-13: NewWestFest
- Aug. 13: **No Worship Service** due to NewWestFest
5:00 p.m. Third-Sunday Social, picnic at Jim and Bettie Miller's.
- Aug. 20: Worship, 10:00 a.m.
Communicator items due.
Two-Cents-a-Meal Offering
- Aug. 21: 7:00 p.m. Faith Family Hospitality meeting at the Chatburns.
- Aug. 26: Saturday Morning Homeless Breakfast (All are welcome to come by and help.)
- Aug. 27: Worship, 10:00 a.m.

Financial Report



June Income

World Church

Use where needed most	\$2,430.00
Abolish Poverty/End Suffering	303.00
Total	\$2,733.00

Local

Local Operating	\$3,395.87
Building Fund	920.00
Two-Cents-a-Meal	117.01
Family Assistance	135.00
Youth	0.00
Other	1,495.00
Total	\$6,062.88

—Gary and Ruth Chatburn, CFO

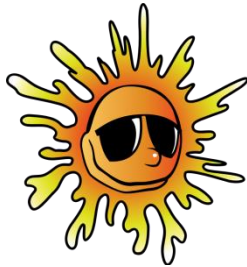
Fort Collins Congregation Operating Offerings 2017 Disciples' Generous Response

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	2,785.00	2,866.00	5,651.00
April	2,776.00	5,015.36	7,791.36
May	2,076.50	2,878.50	4,955.00
June	2,733.00	3,395.87	6,128.87
July			-
August			-
September			-
October			-
November			-
December			-
TOTALS	\$ 15,866.01	\$ 20,387.42	\$ 36,253.43
Balance	44%	56%	

August Birthdays



Mary Jane Heinrichs	08/09
Madie Birks	08/15
Kurt Remmenga	08/16
Keenan Fronapfel	08/19
John Garner	08/20
Sierra Bridwell	08/26
Ken Jones	08/26
Allister Garner	08/26



Summer Hours

Summer hours continue through
Sunday, September 3.

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship
No adult or youth and children's classes
during the summer.

Faith Family Hospitality Meeting

Attention all Faith Family Hospitality
volunteers and others who might like to
participate in this worthy cause:

August 21, 2017, 7:00 p.m., we will meet at
Ruth and Gary Chatburn's for an informational
and sharing evening.

Please plan to attend.

Thanks,
Kay Bunch



Speakers, Planners, Keyboard, Greeters, and Nursery

Speakers

- ❖ Aug. 6: DVD
- ❖ Aug. 13: NewWestFest, No Church
- ❖ Aug. 20: Backpack Blessing Service
- ❖ Aug. 27: David Nii

Planners

- ❖ Aug. 6: Marilyn Garner
- ❖ Aug. 13: NewWestFest, No Church
- ❖ Aug. 20: Ruth Chatburn
- ❖ Aug. 27: Donna Clark

Keyboard

- ❖ Aug. 6: Sharon Fulton
- ❖ Aug. 13: NewWestFest, No Church
- ❖ Aug. 20: Kay Bunch
- ❖ Aug. 27: Jean Newman

Greeters

- ❖ August: Joyce Jordeth

Nursery

- ❖ Aug. 6: Marilyn Garner
- ❖ Aug. 13: NewWestFest
- ❖ Aug. 20: Marta Remmenga
- ❖ Aug. 27: Mary Kohlman

NewWestFest

New West Fest is August 12 and 13. Please
consider signing up to help host guests using
our activity room on those days. The shifts are
two hours long. Contact Kay Bunch if you can
volunteer. This activity offers us an opportunity
to share our building and meet new people in
our community.

Rocky Mountain Mission Center Reunion Remaining

Rockies Family Camp at Peaceful Valley
August 2-6. Each reunion has their own flavor,
and you are invited to come to one or more of
these exciting opportunities for encountering
God and friends in God's beautiful world.

PET Project Thank You!

Congratulations, congregation! At our kick-off fundraiser for the PET Mobility Carts, Gary



Chatburn announced we are sending money to ship

26 carts to Africa!

Outstanding!

We are a compassionate and generous congregation. We can keep our PET cart until the middle of August, so we will continue our fundraiser through August. Thank you, everyone. This quote of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. seems appropriate: “If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way.” That sounds like our congregation.

At a recent cart distribution in Kenya, Gary Moreau, Director of Mobility Worldwide (PET), wrote, “Hundreds of people gathered outside the gate on the morning of the distribution. When the gates opened it was like a scene out of the New Testament. People poured through on crutches, crawling, carried on the backs of friends and in their arms, each coming to receive the gift of mobility.

“It was an honor to witness their struggle, their determination, and their complete joy when they were placed on their very own PET cart. Most will, for the first time in their life, have independence and freedom to go when and where they choose.”

—Kay Bunch

Jesus Seminar



on the Road

Faith

Communities in the 1st and 21st Centuries

August 25–26, 2017
Estes Park, Colorado
“Journeys,” a weekly gathering of progressive Christians in Estes

Park, Colorado, invites you and your friends to the first annual Jesus Seminar in the Rockies, August 25–26 at Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies. Our presenters are Jesus Seminar scholars Sarah Morice Brubaker and Hal Taussig, talking about Faith Communities in the First and Twenty-First Centuries.

This Jesus Seminar “in the Rockies” compares early and current situations of Christ movements. The dynamic beginnings of 1st-century Jesus communities are legendary but sometimes forgotten or contested. The majority of 21st-century American churches are in cataclysmic decline, but thousands of others are experiencing creative and courageous growth. Join Hal Taussig and Sarah Morice Brubaker in exploring the social dimensions of today’s churches and early communities in search of inspiration and direction for the future.

You can learn more and register:

On the Web:

<https://www.westarinstitute.org/upcoming-events-calendar/estespark-2017/>

On Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1430878440276114/>



The **Murphy Center Community Dinner** is looking for some help setting up for the event, and we thought it might be of particular interest to your youth or young adult groups. Set up begins at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 3, at the Masonic Temple, 225 W Oak Street. The door we use is the small one to the right of the main doors (assuming you are facing the building). Anyone interested in helping can arrive at 4:00 p.m. and lend a hand! We aren't certain how long it will take, since it depends on the number of volunteers that arrive. Our best guess is 1 ½-2 hours, perhaps less.

Pam Brewer
Volunteer and Event Coordinator
(970) 829-1162