

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 2017

Communicator

A monthly newsletter of



Community of Christ



Fort Collins, Colorado

A Welcoming Congregation

For everyone born, a place at the table

There Is Nothing to Regret

(God Uses Everything in Our Favor)

—Richard Rohr, *Daily Meditation*, June 12, 2017

Toward the end of his life, Saint Francis told the friars, “Let us begin, brothers, to serve the Lord God, for up until now we have done little or nothing.” [1] That enigmatic sense of beginning again at the end of life, at the end of an era, in the middle of so much failure, when we just want to rest and put the past behind us, that is the gift for reconstruction that we want to discover in these meditations. It makes Francis a man for all seasons, particularly for seasons of winter and death, when we do not know how, much less want, to begin again.

Francis also said as he lay dying, “I have done what is mine; may Christ teach you what is yours!” [2] We cannot change the world except insofar as we have changed ourselves. We can only give away who we are. We can only offer to others what God has done in us. We have no real mental or logical answers. We must *be* an answer. We only know the other side of the journeys that we have made ourselves. Francis walked to the edge and thus he could lead others to what he found there.

All the conflicts and contradictions of life must find a resolution in us before we can resolve anything outside ourselves. Only the forgiven can forgive, only the healed can heal, only those who stand daily in need of mercy can offer mercy to others. At first it sounds simplistic and even individualistic, but it is precisely such

transformed people who can finally effect profound and long-lasting social change.

It has something to do with what we call quantum theology. [3] The cosmos is mirrored in the microcosm. If we let the mystery happen in one small and true place, it moves from there! It is contagious, it is shareable, it reshapes the world. Thus, both Jesus and Francis had no pragmatic social agenda for reform. They just moved outside the system of illusion, more by ignoring it than fighting it and quite simply doing it better. They knew that “the best criticism of the bad is the practice of the better” (one of the Center for Action and Contemplation’s core principles). [4] Jesus and Francis moved to a much larger place that we call holiness/wholeness in God, and from there they could deal kindly with all smaller and confined places. Nothing threatened them; everything elated them, reflecting their own infinite abundance.

Don’t waste any time dividing the world into the good guys and the bad guys. Hold them both together in your own soul—where they are anyway—and you will have held together the whole world. You will have overcome the great divide in one place of spacious compassion. You, little you, will have paid the price of redemption. God takes it from there, replicating the same pattern in another conscious human life.

[1] Thomas of Celano, *The Life of Saint Francis: The Second Book*, chapter 6. See *Francis of Assisi: Early Documents*, vol. 1 (Hyde Park, NY: New City Press, 1999), 273.

[2] Thomas of Celano, *The Remembrance of the Desire of a Soul*, chapter 162. See *Francis of Assisi: Early Documents*, vol. 2 (Hyde Park, NY: New City Press, 2000), 386.

[3] See Diarmuid O’Murchu, *Quantum Theology: Spiritual Implications of the New Physics*, rev. ed. (The Crossroad Publishing Company: 2004).

[4] “The Eight Core Principles of the Center for Action and Contemplation,” <https://cac.org/about-cac/missionvision/>.



I would like to thank the Children's Sunday school teachers for their dedication to the youth of our congregation. They organized and provided meaningful lessons and activities twice a month during the 11:00 worship service from February 12 to May 21. These teachers included Gil Pagat, Nancy Miller, Bob Fulton, Donna Clark, and Mary Kohlman. Also, Marta Remmenga offered her service as teacher aide every class Sunday.

—Sharon Fulton

Thank You!

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
- Larry Slocum 7/12
- Don Wallis 7/13
- 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

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.



Financial Report



May Income

World Church

Use where needed most	\$1,770.00
Abolish Poverty/End Suffering	306.50
Total	\$2,076.50

Local

Local Operating	\$2,878.50
Building Fund	975.00
Two-Cents-a-Meal	95.66
Family Assistance	95.00
Youth	0.00
Other	130.00
Total	\$4,174.16

—Gary and Ruth Chatburn, CFO

Fort Collins Congregation

Operating Offerings

2017 Disciples' Generous Response

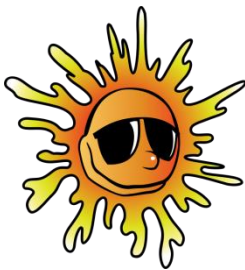
Month	Total World Operating	Local Operating	Total Operating Giving
January	2,788.65	3,149.00	5,937.65
February	2,706.86	3,082.69	5,789.55
March	2,785.00	2,866.00	5,651.00
April	2,776.00	5,015.36	7,791.36
May	2,076.50	2,878.50	4,955.00
June			-
July			-
August			-
September			-
October			-
November			-
December			-
TOTALS	\$ 13,133.01	\$ 16,991.55	\$ 30,124.56
Balance	44%	56%	

July Calendar



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

- June 2: Communion Service, 10:00 a.m.
First-Sunday Giving
- July 5: Worship Coordinators, 3:00 p.m.
Leadership Council, 4:00 p.m.
- July 8–15: Big Spruce Reunion
- July 9: **Worship Service at LaPaz**
- July 13: Take-Away Lunch volunteers at
Murphy Center, 10:00–noon
- July 16: Worship, 10:00 a.m.
Communicator items due.
Two-Cents-a-Meal Offering
6:00 p.m. Annual Picnic (see
announcement)
- July 22: Saturday Morning Homeless Breakfast
(All are welcome to come by and help.)
- July 22–29: Spectacular at Graceland
- July 23: Worship, 10:00 a.m.
- July 30: Worship, 10:00 a.m.



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.



Speakers, Planners, Keyboard, Greeters, and Nursery

Speakers

- ❖ July 2: Debbie Jones
- ❖ July 9: Services at LaPaz
- ❖ July 16: Shirley Remmenga
- ❖ July 23: Deena Burford
- ❖ July 30: TBA

Planners

- ❖ July 2: Tom Beck
- ❖ July 9: Services at LaPaz
- ❖ July 16: Kathy Graybill
- ❖ July 23: Shari Smith
- ❖ July 30: Bob Fulton

Keyboard

- ❖ July 2: Tom Beck
- ❖ July 9: Services at LaPaz
- ❖ July 16: Deb Friesz
- ❖ July 23: Sharon Troyer
- ❖ July 30: Kay Bunch

Greeters

- ❖ July: Kathy Bridwell and Betty Jones

Nursery

- ❖ July 2: Marilyn Garner
- ❖ July 9: Services at LaPaz
- ❖ July 16: Marta Remmenga
- ❖ July 23: Mary Kohlman
- ❖ July 30: Pat Miner

Doctrine and Covenants 165

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.

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.

—Kay Bunch

Giving the PET a tryout



Joyce Jordeth Spinning Circles



Dick Foster, "Where is the power?"



Logan Miller, "I could use one of these in high school to get around!"

Rocky Mountain Mission Center Reunions Remaining

Big Spruce Reunion July 8–15, and **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.

Picnic in the Park

Sunday, July 16, 6:00–8:00 p.m.
at City Park Shelter #7

Included:



Hamburgers, hotdogs, condiments, chips, drink, table service, and homemade ice cream will be provided.

Please bring a salad or side dish to share.

Entertainment this year will include FUN for one and all! A number of games and activities will be set up outside of the shelter. It is also suspected that a lot of chatting will take place. Feel free to invite your family and friends to join us at this annual congregation event.

The City Park outdoor pool, Sheldon Lake, and the trolley are very close in proximity to the shelter house. Your family might want to include taking advantage of swimming, fishing, or trolley riding during the afternoon before the picnic.

Directions: From the intersection of Mulberry and College Ave., drive west on W. Mulberry St., past Shields, and turn right onto Sheldon Dr. Continue straight as far as the stop sign, and then turn left onto City Park Dr. Find shelter house #7 on the right just past the pool area.

RSVP by Tuesday, July 11, to Sharon Fulton (970) 484-6943 or Donna Clark (970) 484-8009

Don't forget BUG SPRAY and SUNSCREEN.



Deep Listening in a Divided World



By Katie Harmon-McLaughlin,
Spiritual Formation Ministries

When I am attentive, I notice my reaction to conversation with others, especially those with whom I disagree. It is physical as much as emotional. My heart rate increases, there's a tightening urgency in my chest, and my deepest convictions flare up—all demanding to be voiced. Perhaps the greatest—and most challenging—wisdom I ever have been given is that these difficult encounters can serve as paths to spiritual growth if I can muster the humility to let them.

The problem I experience with many of these difficult conversations is that I find myself in a defensive posture rather than an open one, seeking to persuade. I line up my arguments, while the other person is talking, only half attentive to what that person actually is saying.

I confess that I forget in these moments that the person before me also is beloved of God, a sacred mystery worthy of reverent curiosity and respect. I forget that the call of deep listening is to listen beneath the surface of things to that holy place where unity, not conformity, may be found. This is a spiritual practice, one I believe we need in our world right now.