

**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.



June 2017

# Communicator

A monthly newsletter of



Community of Christ



Fort Collins, Colorado

A Welcoming Congregation

For everyone born, a place at the table

## The Body of Christ

—Richard Rohr, *Daily Meditation*, May 19, 2017

Paul had a concrete missionary strategy of building living communities able to produce a visible and believable message. Yet for centuries we've interpreted his message as if he is speaking about individuals being privately "saved." This has made Paul seem more like a mere moralist than the mystic he is. Mystics tend to see things in wholes rather than getting preoccupied with the parts.

Paul believes that corporate evil can only be overcome or confronted with corporate good. He uses primitive, yet powerful, words for the negative side of corporations, institutions, and nations: he calls them "thrones, dominions, principalities, and powers" (Colossians 1:16). These are not "bad angels" as much as collective attitudes that are almost impossible to break. Because they are so widely shared as mass consciousness—the way we're programmed to think—they no longer look like evil and are hard to resist. Murder is bad, but war is good; greedy people are bad, but capitalism is going to save the world; ambition and pride are supposedly major sins, but not in the good ol' USA. Do you see the problem?

I've never heard a single sermon my entire life on the tenth commandment—"Thou shalt not covet . . . anything that is thy neighbor's" (Exodus 20:17)—because coveting goods is the only game in town now. It's called capitalism and consumerism! In Paul's thinking, those big

cultural blind spots can only be overcome by a group of people living and affirming and supporting one another in an alternative lifestyle. Smaller groups—like the Quakers, Amish, Mennonites, and some Catholic religious orders—were able to create actual alternative cultures.

For Paul, community is the living organism that communicates the Gospel message. Paul, like Jesus, wants to change culture here, not just send people away to a far-off heaven later! If Christ's cosmic message doesn't take form in a concrete group of people, then, as far as Paul is concerned, it is an unbelievable message. An autonomous Christian is as impossible as an independent arm or leg. Arms and legs exist only as parts. No single one of us is the whole Christ, and "the eye cannot say to the hand, I do not need you" (I Corinthians 12:21). Believers exist as parts of the whole, the Body of Christ. Their very existence is an objective, shared state that Paul calls love or living "in Christ." When Paul says, "without love I am nothing" (1 Corinthians 13:2), he implies that he is inside of another Being who is Love.

Paul sees what we will eventually call the "communion of saints" (by the fifth and sixth centuries) as an organism that is very alive, real, and operative in this world. I like to call it an "energy field" created by all those who share in the various parts of Christ. "Salvation" is thus something we can participate in right here and now. When Paul addresses his letters to "the saints," he is clearly not speaking of our later idea of canonized saints, but of those who make

up his living communities and who are participating in this shared life of love in this world.

Paul does not make heroes of individuals, but it is precisely as members of the Body that they “shine like stars” as “perfect children of God among a deceitful and underhanded brood” (Philippians 2:15). Paul sees his small communities as an adequate “leaven” by which God will eventually change the whole debauched Roman Empire (Paul got the word “yeast” or “leaven” from Jesus, see Matthew 13:33). Talk about patience and confidence!

### Financial Report



#### April Income

##### World Church

Use where needed most                      \$2,372.00  
 Abolish Poverty/End Suffering              404.00  
**Total**    **\$2,776.00**

##### Local

Local Operating                                  \$5,015.36  
 Building Fund                                    565.00  
 Two-Cents-a-Meal                              176.39  
 Family Assistance                              165.00  
 Youth    15.00  
 Other    0.00  
**Total**    **\$5,936.75**

—Gary and Ruth Chatburn, CFO

### June Birthdays



Oceana Alcoser                                  6/4  
 Bret Remmenga                                6/5  
 Kate Ytell                                        6/9  
 Don Struble                                     6/9  
 Gary Jones                                      6/17  
 Marc McKenzie                                6/26  
 Max Coopwood                                6/29

## Fort Collins Congregation

### Operating Offerings

#### 2017 Disciples' Generous Response

Month	Total		Total Operating Giving
	World Operating	Local Operating	
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			-
June			-
July			-
August			-
September			-
October			-
November			-
December			-
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 11,056.51</b>	<b>\$ 14,113.05</b>	<b>\$ 25,169.56</b>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>56%</b>	

### June Calendar



Check the website:

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

- June 4: Communion Service, 10:00 a.m.  
First-Sunday Giving
- June 7: Worship Coordinators, 3:00 p.m.  
Leadership Council, 4:00 p.m.
- June 8: Take-Away Lunch volunteers at  
Murphy Center, 10:00–noon
- June 11: Worship, 10:00 a.m.  
**Two-Cents-a-Meal Offering**  
**June Social, 5:00 p.m. PET Project**
- June 18: Worship, 10:00 a.m.  
**Communicator** items due.
- June 22: **Book Club, 1:00 p.m. at Donna Clark's.**
- June 24: Saturday Morning Homeless Breakfast  
(All are welcome to come by and help.)
- June 25: Worship, 10:00 a.m.

## Summer Hours

We will start our usual summer hours on Sunday, June 4 and they will continue through Sunday, September 3.

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship

No adult or youth and children's classes during the summer.

## Sunday School Recognition 2017



## Rocky Mountain Mission Center Camps

The 2017 Camping Season is upon us! The Camping Brochure has been mailed! This brochure will invite youth throughout the mission center to come together in community and explore their relationship with God. If you are a parent, grandparent, guardian, or friend of a young person in the mission center, please encourage them to attend one of the camps. We would love to welcome them into community. Please read your brochure to learn about the cost to participate in camps this year. (There is also exciting news that comes from our Grocery Card program! We have raised another \$2,400 so far in 2017!)

Adults, there is a place for you, too, this summer! Reunions begin in June. We have three offerings: **Fine Arts Reunion** at Camp Paradise June 7-11, **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.

## June Social

On June 11, at our Sunday night social, we will share a taco bar meal. (Shells, tortillas, and meat will be provided.) Please bring the fixings and desserts. See a video about the PET mobility cart, have some fun activities, and collect donations toward our support of this project.



## Speakers, Planners, Keyboard, Greeters, and Nursery

### Speakers

- ❖ June 4: TBD
- ❖ June 11: Dave Simons
- ❖ June 18: Deb Friesz
- ❖ June 25: Rich Kohlman

### Planners

- ❖ June 4: Dave Simons
- ❖ June 11: Nancy Miller
- ❖ June 18: Jean Newman
- ❖ June 25: Mary Kohlman

### Keyboard

- ❖ June 4: Sharon Troyer
- ❖ June 11: Tom Beck
- ❖ June 18: Sharon Fulton
- ❖ June 25: Jean Newman

### Greeters

- ❖ June: Ruth and Gary Chatburn

### Nursery

- ❖ June 4: Marilyn Garner
- ❖ June 11: Bettie Miller
- ❖ June 18: Marta Remmenga
- ❖ June 25: Mary Kohlman