

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.



May 2017

Communicator

A monthly newsletter of



Community of Christ



Fort Collins, Colorado

A Welcoming Congregation

For everyone born, a place at the table

Healing Broken Stories

—Rich Kohlman, Co-Pastor

“Healthy stories free us both from the lies we tell ourselves and from the lies others tell us. In Alice Walker’s *The Color Purple*, Celie is told, directly and indirectly, that she can never be more than a servant to an abusive husband



because she is black, female, friendless, stupid, and ugly. It is a story she believes until another character, Shug, tells her a different story about herself. Braced up by this

new story, Celie sees herself and the world differently, acts differently, and thereby changes her world.

“Meaningful freedom is not freedom from something, but freedom to do something. Broken stories trap us in repetitive, destructive acts—or make us passive; healthy ones free us to change ourselves and the world. The latter encourage us to see ourselves as characters with meaningful choices and motivate us to act accordingly. Nothing is more energizing than the feeling that one has something important to do. Nothing is more enervating than the feeling that nothing is worth doing.

“One test of our life story is whether it frees us and motivates us to act. It should create for us a world where meaning is possible, and we have a role in bringing it about. Healthy stories are the enemies of passivity, paralysis, and cynicism.

What specifically we do as a result of this freedom is unpredictable. It is more likely to be something small than something big. Most significant acts in the world are small ones. It is the accumulation of small acts, in individuals and in communities, that changes reality.”

—*Soulful Living*, edited by Rick NurrieSterns, Mary NurrieStearns, and Melissa West. Pg. 153.

What shape is your story in? Is it a healthy or broken story? Have you thought about how



your story might be rewritten or changed as Celie did? How might you act out your story differently and make all the difference in your life? Don't be trapped by your broken story.

“Blessed be the Lord, because he has heard the sound of my pleadings. The Lord is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts; so I am helped, and my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him.” —Psalm 28:6–7

Financial Report



March Income

World Church

Use where needed most	\$2,468.00
Abolish Poverty/End Suffering	317.00
Total	\$2,785.00

Local

Local Operating	\$2,866.00
Building Fund	400.00
Two-Cents-a-Meal	77.58
Family Assistance	135.00
Youth	0.00
Other	0.00
Total	\$3,478.58

—Gary and Ruth Chatburn, CFO

Fort Collins Congregation

Operating Offerings

2017 Disciples' Generous Response

Month	Total		Total
	World Operating	Local Operating	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			-
May			-
June			-
July			-
August			-
September			-
October			-
November			-
December			-
TOTALS	\$ 8,280.51	\$ 9,097.69	\$ 17,378.20
Balance	48%	52%	

May Calendar



Check the website:

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

- May 3: Worship Coordinators, 3:00 p.m.
Leadership Council, 4:00 p.m.
- May 7: Adult Class, 9:45 a.m.
Communion Service, 11:00 a.m.
First-Sunday Giving
- May 11: Take-Away Lunch volunteers at
Murphy Center, 10:00–noon
- May 14: Mother's Day
Adult Class, 9:45 a.m.
Worship, 11:00 a.m.
- Two-Cents-a-Meal Offering**
- May 15: Memorial Service for Beverly Doig,
2:00 p.m.
- May 21: Adult Class, 9:45 a.m.
Youth and Children's Classes, 11:00 a.m. (This is a change.)
Worship, 11:00 a.m.
- Communicator** items due.
- May 25: Book Club, 1:00 p.m. at Donna Clark's.
- May 27: Saturday Morning Homeless Breakfast
(All are welcome to come by and help.)
- May 28: Adult Class, 9:45 a.m.
Worship, 11:00 a.m.

May 29: Memorial Day

Children and Youth Classes in May

(No classes during the summer.)

There will only be one class for youth in May on the third Sunday, May 21. The second Sunday is Mother's Day and the fourth Sunday is Memorial Day weekend.



May Book Club News

The Book Club will meet on Thursday, May 25, at 1:00 p.m. at Donna Clark's home. The book is, *Just Mercy*, by Bryan Stevenson.



Speakers, Planners, Keyboard, Greeters, and Nursery

Speakers

- ❖ May 7: Shirley Remmenga
- ❖ May 14: Marilyn Garner
- ❖ May 21: Rick Bunch
- ❖ May 28: Deb Friesz

Planners

- ❖ May 7: Donna Clark
- ❖ May 14: Marilyn Garner
- ❖ May 21: Kay Bunch
- ❖ May 28: Ruth Chatburn
- ❖

Keyboard

- ❖ May 7: Jean Newman
- ❖ May 14: Kay Bunch
- ❖ May 21: Sharon Fulton
- ❖ May 28:
- ❖

Greeters

- ❖ May: Dave and Voni Simons

Nursery

- ❖ May 7: Marilyn Garner
- ❖ May 14: Bettie Miller
- ❖ May 21: Marta Remmenga
- ❖ May 28: Mary Kohlman

May Birthdays



Porter Garner	05/03
Voni Simons	05/04
Awtumn Alcoser	05/10
Jamie Crawford	05/12
Jim Miller	05/15
Rose Julch	05/15
Lisa Garner	05/25
Toni Martinez	05/25

Rocky Mountain Mission Center Camps

The 2017 Camping Season is upon us! The Camping Brochure was mailed out this week! 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. Super Sunday this year is May 7. This is a great day to register youth for camps to help jumpstart the camping season! 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.