

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



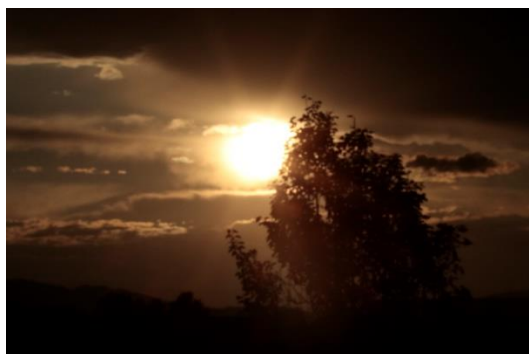
October 2017

"The Dark Night of the Soul"

—Richard Rohr, *Daily Meditation*,
Thursday, September 7, 2017

I came out of the seminary in 1970 thinking that my job was to have an answer for every question. What I've learned is that not-knowing and often not even needing to know is—surprise of surprises—a deeper way of knowing and a deeper falling into compassion. This is surely what the mystics mean by "death" and why they talk of it with so many metaphors. It is the essential transitioning. Maybe that is why Jesus praised faith even more than love; maybe that is why St. John of the Cross called faith "luminous darkness." Yes, love is the final goal but ever deeper trust inside of darkness is the path for getting there.

My good friend Gerald May shed fresh light on the meaning of John of the Cross' phrase "the dark night of the



soul." He said that God has to work in the soul in secret and in darkness, because if we fully knew what was happening, and what Mystery/transformation/God/grace will eventually ask of us, we would either try to take charge or stop the whole process. No one

oversees his or her own demise willingly, even when it is the false self that is dying. God has to undo our illusions secretly, as it were, when we are not watching and not in perfect control, say the mystics. We move forward in ways that we do not even understand and through the quiet workings of time and grace, as "Deep calls unto deep" (Psalm 42:8). In other words, Spirit initiates deep resonance and intimacy with our spirit, as the Endless Divine Yes evokes an ever-deeper yes in us.

As James Finley, one of CAC's core faculty members, says, "The mystic is not someone who says, 'Look what I have done!' The mystic is one who says, 'Look what love has done to me. There's nothing left but God's intimate love giving itself to me as me.' That's the blessedness in poverty: when all in us that is not God dissolves, and we finally realize that we are already as beautiful as God is beautiful, because God gave the infinite beauty of God as who we are."

Finley describes God as "the infinity of the unforeseeable; so we know that [the unforeseeable] is trustworthy, because in everything, God is trying to move us into Christ consciousness. If we are absolutely grounded in the absolute love of God that protects us from nothing even as it sustains us in all things, then we can face all things with courage and tenderness and touch the hurting places in others and in ourselves with love." Perhaps this explains the mysterious coexistence of deep suffering and intense joy in mystics.

Toiletries for the FFH Day Center



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



One of the most needed items when families obtain housing is lamps. If you have lamps that need a new home, please get them to Kay Bunch. Thanks.

Fifth-Sunday Forum



Our Fifth-Sunday Forum for October will be a presentation by Lutheran Services on *Advanced Care Planning*. Many of us are either taking care of parents

or siblings or may need the care planning for ourselves in the not too distant future. This will be a great time to learn the basics we need to have for our futures.



Pancakes at 9:00 a.m. Presentation from 9:30-10:30 a.m. See you there!

October Calendar



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

- Oct. 1: Adult Class, 9:45 p.m.
Worship, 11:00 a.m.
Communion Sunday
First Sunday Giving
Potluck
- Oct. 4: Worship Coordinators, 3:00 p.m.
Leadership Council, 4:00 p.m.
- Oct. 8: Adult Class, 9:45 a.m.
Children and Youth Classes, 11:00 a.m.
Worship, 11:00 a.m.
Second-Sunday Offering
- Oct. 12: Take-Away Lunch volunteers at Murphy Center, 10:00-noon
- Oct. 15: Adult Class, 9:45 a.m.
Worship, 11:00 a.m.
Communicator items due.
- Oct. 22: Adult Class, 9:45 a.m.
Children and Youth Classes, 11:00 a.m.
Worship, 11:00 a.m.
- Oct. 28: Saturday Morning Homeless Breakfast (All are welcome to come by and help.)
- Oct. 29: Pancake Breakfast. Fifth-Sunday Forum, Advance Care Planning presentation by Lutheran Services, 9:00 a.m.
Worship, 11:00 a.m.

Third-Sunday Social

Harvest Party, October 15, 5:00 p.m.

Our Third-Sunday Social for October will be our annual Harvest Party. Get out your favorite costume, bring your pumpkin carving skills, and an appetite. Watch the announcements for more information as the date approaches.



Financial Report



July Income

World Church

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| Use where needed most | \$2,470.00 |
| Abolish Poverty/End Suffering | 317.00 |
| Total | \$2,787.00 |

Local

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Local Operating | \$2,431.11 |
| Building Fund | 875.00 |
| Two-Cents-a-Meal | 71.50 |
| Family Assistance | 55.00 |
| Youth | 10.00 |
| Other | 50.00 |
| Total | \$3,492.61 |

—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 | 2,787.00 | 2,431.11 | 5,218.11 |
| August | | | - |
| September | | | - |
| October | | | - |
| November | | | - |
| December | | | - |
| TOTALS | \$ 18,653.01 | \$ 22,818.53 | \$ 41,471.54 |
| Balance | 45% | 55% | |

September Birthdays



| | |
|-----------------|-------|
| Eric Fronapfel | 10/02 |
| Mary Kohlman | 10/07 |
| Jon Mendenhall | 10/14 |
| Irene Chungag | 10/14 |
| Ben Miller | 10/21 |
| Gilbert Pagat | 10/21 |
| Nancy Simon | 10/21 |
| Nancy Miller | 10/23 |
| Danise Remmenga | 10/26 |
| Rick Bunch | 10/28 |
| Aidan Dicke | 10/30 |



Speakers, Planners, Keyboard, Greeters, and Nursery

Speakers

- ❖ Oct. 1: George Jones
- ❖ Oct. 8:
- ❖ Oct. 15: Deb Friesz
- ❖ Oct. 22: Shandra Newcom
- ❖ Oct. 29: Gil Pagat

Planners

- ❖ Oct. 1: Bob Fulton
- ❖ Oct. 8: Tom Beck
- ❖ Oct. 15: Tom Beck
- ❖ Oct. 22: Kathy Graybill
- ❖ Oct. 29: Shari Smith

Keyboard

- ❖ Oct. 1: Stephanie Gustave
- ❖ Oct. 8: Tom Beck
- ❖ Oct. 15: Sharon Troyer
- ❖ Oct. 22: Deb Friesz
- ❖ Oct. 29: Jean Newman

Greeters

- ❖ October: Tom Beck and Max Coopwood

Nursery

- ❖ Oct. 1: Marilyn Garner
- ❖ Oct. 8: Bettie Miller
- ❖ Oct. 15: Marta Remmenga
- ❖ Oct. 22:
- ❖ Oct. 29: Pat Miner