

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



September 2017

“Leaving the Garden”

—Richard Rohr, *Daily Meditation*,

August 23, 2017

Now let's look at “The Fall,” as we usually refer to the pivotal event described in Genesis 3. The Fall is not simply something that happened in one historical moment to one archetypal couple, Adam and Eve. It happens in all moments and lives. It is the shape of creation. It sets the plot line.

After Adam and Eve took their identity as separate from their Source, “the eyes of both of them were opened” to a split universe of suspicion, subterfuge, doubt, and alienation (Genesis 3:7). And “they realized that they were naked.” This is indeed the lie and the “fall” from original grace and innocence. Teachers of prayer call this the “subject-object split” where most humans live their whole lives.

This happens to each of us whenever we stand over and against Reality, apart and analytical,



and can no longer know things by affinity, likeness, or natural connection (“love”), but we merely know things as objects out there and apart from us. Then we are no longer in the garden, or even part of the garden, but we “eat” the garden

like a possession. It is this alienation that all religion is trying to overcome.

The split begins in all human beings quite early, and for abused or neglected children even earlier. By the age of seven most have “left the garden” and have begun to live largely in their minds—looking over at the garden. Before that time, we exist in unitive consciousness, when “the Father and I are one” (John 10:30), or my mother and I are one, as we enjoy in the first months of life.

Enneagram teacher Russ Hudson describes the inevitable split:

“At the root of our ego patterns is a profound suffering caused by our alienation from ourselves and from God—from our direct sense and experience of the Divine, moment by moment. We learn how this suffering drives us to do many things we would not choose to do, and to not do many things we would choose to do [see Romans 7:15]. In this sense, it is telling us that, without presence and awareness, we transgress against our own heart, our own truth, often without realizing that this is what we are doing.”

That's why I often say we are not punished for our sins; we are punished by our sins.

Hudson further clarifies this by explaining the roots of the word “sin”:

“The Greek word hamartia was most often translated as “sin” in the New Testament. But this word did not imply transgression in the sense of breaking a rule or defying an authority.

It meant “to miss the mark” as in an arrow that misses its target. Hamartia is the way we lose balance and “self forget”—the way we fall away from the direct experience of Divine Grace. . . . Our ego then becomes a way of covering up this suffering rather than addressing it.

September Calendar



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

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.

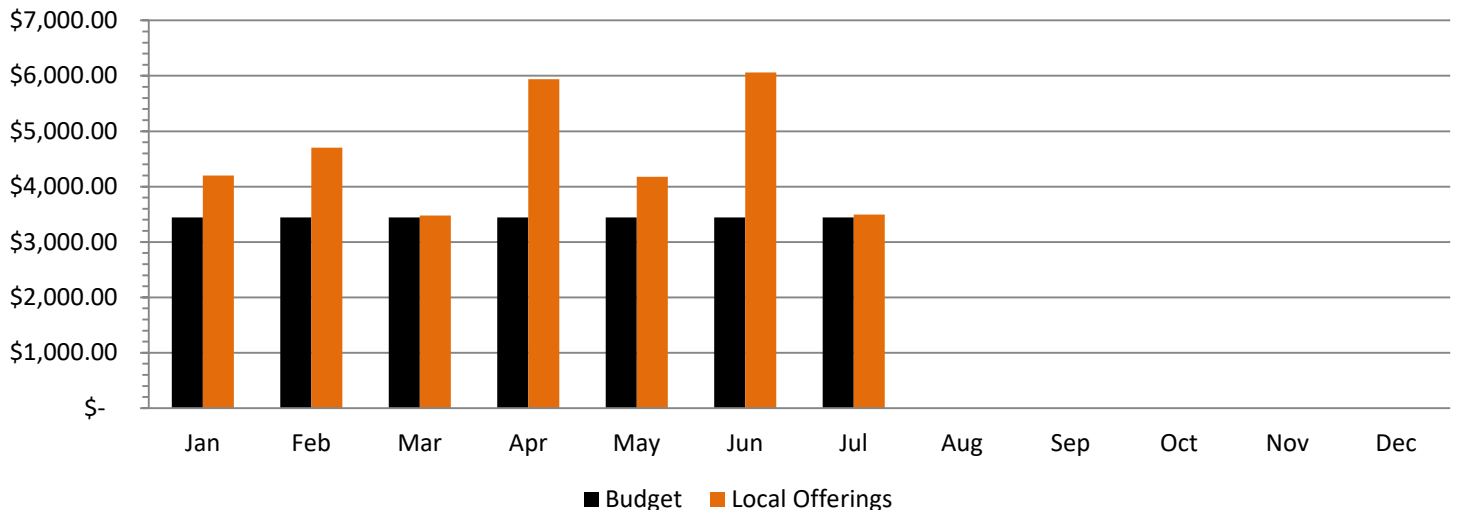


Summer Hours

Summer hours continue through Sunday, September 3.
10:00 a.m. Morning Worship
No adult or youth and children’s classes during the summer.
Summer hours end on September 10!
Adult Class at 9:45 a.m.
Worship and Youth Classes at 11:00 a.m.

- Sep. 3: Worship, 10:00 a.m.
Communion Sunday
First Sunday Giving
- Sep. 6: Worship Coordinators, 3:00 p.m.
Leadership Council, 4:00 p.m.
- Sep. 10: Adult Class, 9:45 a.m.
Children and Youth Classes, 11:00 a.m.
Worship, 11:00 a.m.
Second-Sunday Offering
- Sep. 14: Take-Away Lunch volunteers at Murphy Center, 10:00–noon
- Sep. 17: Adult Class, 9:45 a.m.
Worship, 11:00 a.m.
Communicator items due.
- Sep. 23: Saturday Morning Homeless Breakfast (All are welcome to come by and help.)
- Sep. 24: Adult Class, 9:45 a.m.
Children and Youth Classes, 11:00 a.m.
Worship, 11:00 a.m.

Local Offerings (Actual) vs. Local Offerings Budget





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

September Birthdays



Felicia Bridwell-Deshner	9/9
Donna Clark	9/11
Gabriel Pagat	9/15
Shawnea Pagat	9/15
Deb Friesz	9/19
Mike Davis	9/21
Kathy Graybill	9/22
Tom Beck	9/23
Jan Newman	9/25

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	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%	



Speakers, Planners, Keyboard, Greeters, and Nursery

Speakers

- ❖ Sep. 3: Shirley Remmenga
- ❖ Sep 10: Rich Kohlman
- ❖ Sep. 17: Gary Gordier
- ❖ Sep. 24: Nancy Miller

Planners

- ❖ Sep. 3: Dave Simons
- ❖ Sep 10: Mary Kohlman
- ❖ Sep. 17: Nancy Miller
- ❖ Sep. 24: Jean Newman

Keyboard

- ❖ Sep. 3: Deb Friesz
- ❖ Sep. 10: Sharon Fulton
- ❖ Sep. 17: Tom Beck
- ❖ Sep. 24: Sharon Troyer

Greeters

- ❖ September: Pagat Family

Nursery

- ❖ Sep. 3: Marilyn Garner
- ❖ Sep 10: Bettie Miller
- ❖ Sep. 17: Marta Remmenga
- ❖ Sep. 24: