

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



February 2018

The Second Gaze

by Richard Rohr

“Contemplation helps us to actually experience our experiences so that they can become transformational.



Contemplation exposes our small self so that we can be open to our Big Self, which many of us call “God.” [We need to]

explore what the contemplative mind is and how it is necessary—in some form—to allow us to rediscover our inherent divine “image” and grow into our “likeness” of God. Without contemplative consciousness, we live on the surface of our own experiences and our own self.

“The world today tends to be cynical about most things. We have a hard time believing in an enchanted world, a sacred or benevolent universe. Why would we if we see only at the surface level?



Everywhere we turn, every time we watch the

news, we see suffering. We have become skeptical about God's goodness, humanity's possibilities, and our planet's future. We can't help seeing what is not and are often unable to recognize or appreciate what is. I see this temptation in myself almost every day. I have to pray and wait for a second gaze, a deeper seeing. This is my daily bread.

“From the very beginning, we see that nature is good, humans are good, and God is good. I have never met a loving human being who did not also believe in the foundational goodness of people and all of creation. We are sons and daughters of God, and all creatures are our brothers and sisters. We come forth from God, we have the privilege of co-creating with God, and we will return to God. Each being uniquely reflects part of the mystery of God for a while on this earth, before returning home.



Remember, the divine image is objectively held by all people, but we each have to choose to grow in our likeness to God. That is our primary task on this earth. God always sees and loves the

image; we tend to get distracted by the likeness.

“We must discover and accept what unique part of the divine mystery is ours to reflect. All each of us can give back to God is what God has already given to us. We must choose it, respect it, and allow it to blossom. The most courageous thing we will ever do is to bear humbly the mystery of our own reality, to trust our divine image and grow in God's likeness. It is simply a matter of becoming who we already are.”



February Calendar



Check the website:

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

- Feb. 4: Adult Class, 9:45 p.m.
Worship, 11:00 a.m.
Communion Sunday
First Sunday Giving
- Feb. 7: Worship Coordinators, 3:00 p.m.
Leadership Council, 4:00 p.m.
- Feb. 8: Take-Away Lunch volunteers at
Murphy Center, 10:00–noon
- Feb. 11: Adult Class, 9:45 a.m.
Children and Youth Classes, 11:00 a.m.
Worship, 11:00 a.m.
Second-Sunday Offering
Second-Sunday Social, 5:00 p.m.
- Feb. 18: Adult Class, 9:45 a.m.
Worship, 11:00 a.m.
Communicator items due.
- Feb. 24: 8:00 a.m., Saturday Morning Homeless
Breakfast (All are welcome to come
by and help.)
- Feb. 25: Adult Class, 9:45 a.m.
Children and Youth Classes, 11:00 a.m.
Worship, 11:00 a.m.

Use of Church Facility



If you want to use the church facility for an activity, please with Jon Ytell first to make sure it is available. Thank you.

Large-Print Hymn Music Available



Binders containing large-print copies of the hymns for each Sunday are available at the Greeters Stand in the foyer. The binders are also a lighter-weight option for joining in the singing of

hymns in the worship service. Thank you, Sharon Fulton, for providing this ministry.

Planners of worship services can also help in this ministry by giving your hymn selections to Sharon Fulton as soon as you have them to allow time to get them enlarged. Thanks.

Financial Report



December Income

World Church

Use where needed most	\$3,164.00
Abolish Poverty/End Suffering	234.13
Total	\$3,398.13

Local

Local Operating	\$3,623.21
Building Fund	1415.00
Two-Cents-a-Meal	86.80
Family Assistance	90.00
Youth Fund	161.30
Other (Memorial Fund Donations)	100.00
Total	\$5,476.31

—Gary and Ruth Chatburn, CFO

Fort Collins Congregation

Operating Offerings

2017 Disciples' Generous Response

Month	Total	Local	Total
	World Operating	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	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	2,405.29	2,430.90	4,836.19
September	5,072.70	3,221.62	8,294.32
October	2,872.82	3,404.66	6,277.48
November	3,424.77	3,394.00	6,818.77
December	3,398.13	3,623.21	7,021.34
TOTALS	\$ 35,826.72	\$ 38,892.92	\$ 74,719.64
Balance	48%	52%	

Narcotics Anonymous Support Pledge Fund

As was stated in our recent business meeting, funds are needed to help in maintaining the areas that Narcotics Anonymous uses within our facility. Narcotics Anonymous started out as a single group meeting in our facility on a single night. It has now grown to five groups meeting on five separate nights. While we do not charge the Narcotics Anonymous groups to use our facilities, they do contribute varying donations each month. Due to the increased number of nights that the facilities are used, additional funds are needed to supplement the donations given in order to cover energy and facility maintenance costs that have risen with the increased use. Several members of the congregation have already made contributions. If you would like to make a monthly support pledge or a onetime support pledge that is in addition to your normal offering contributions, please contact Ruth or Gary Chatburn for a pledge form to complete.

From Your Facilities Management Team

Your Facilities Management Team (church property) is working diligently to prioritize major and minor work items. Some items will require a contractor to perform the work, while there are other items that can be done by members of the congregation. When the congregation work list is prioritized and finalized, we will let you know how you can assist.

Recently, a visit was made to the Courtyard Building to check internal and external conditions of the building. The apartment appeared to be in pretty good shape except for a corner roof leak and some wall water damage. The front real estate office was found to not be in as good a shape. An inspection of this area found that there are some structural issues that need to be addressed. We will be contracting with a structural engineering company to

perform an analysis and to give us advice on how we should proceed with this building.

Notes from the CFO's Desk

As we look back at 2017 and forward to 2018, there are several things to note. The congregation in 2017 was generous in its Disciples' Generous Response in a number of ways. World Church offerings income exceeded the 2017 Budget by around \$4,800. The Local Operating Fund offerings exceeded the budget by almost \$6,800 and allowed us to meet our operating expenses without having to transfer any funds from reserves or other accounts. Contributions of approximately \$9,000 to the Building Fund were greatly appreciated and resulted in the budget for that fund being exceeded by \$7,000. We received over \$1,000 in the 2-Cents-a-Meal offerings this past year which is given to Faith Family Hospitality in support of their family outreach programs. The P.E.T. Project received \$1800 in donations that will allow organizations to be able to help with mobility projects in various parts of the world.

2018 will be a challenging year for us as we move forward to meet congregational financial operating needs and maintenance costs for our facilities. Maintenance items identified by the Facilities Management Team far exceed our current available funds for financing the projects. So, we will have to have a disciplined approach to meeting the costs of these projects while at the same time meeting the normal congregational operating expenses.

Last, but not least, contribution receipts for your 2017 offerings will be given to you starting Sunday, January 28, 2018. If you should have any questions about your receipts, please contact Ruth or Gary Chatburn.



February Birthdays

Laura Ballantyne	02/03
Susanna Garner	02/04
Marie Ytell	02/05
Hoss Davis	02/05
Jacee Davis	02/05
Donna Palmer	02/06
Don Worthington	02/10
Chad Ballantyne	02/12
Brett McKenzie	02/14
Janny Kay McKenzie	02/16
Gene Bridwell	02/17
Jean Newman	02/19
Teri Bridwell	02/20
Ruth Chatburn	02/20
Marcia Bridwell	02/22
Joyce Worthington	02/24
Elias Bencomo	02/28



Speakers, Planners, Keyboard, Greeters, and Nursery

Speakers

- ❖ Feb. 4: Shandra Newcom
- ❖ Feb. 11: Rich Kohlman
- ❖ Feb. 18:
- ❖ Feb. 25: Gil Pagat

Planners

- ❖ Feb. 4: Stephanie Gustave
- ❖ Feb. 11: Bob Fulton
- ❖ Feb. 18: Kathy Graybill and Tom Beck
- ❖ Feb. 25: Shari Smith

Keyboard

- ❖ Feb. 4: Deb Friesz
- ❖ Feb. 11: Kay Bunch
- ❖ Feb. 18: Sharon Troyer
- ❖ Feb. 25: Jean Newman

Greeters

- ❖ February: Mary and Rich Kohlman

Nursery

- ❖ Feb. 4:
- ❖ Feb. 11:
- ❖ Feb. 18:
- ❖ Feb. 25:



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



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.

JUST A REMINDER

Anyone is welcome to come and participate in any of the monthly meetings of the leadership council. If you would like to be on the email reminder list, please notify Rich Kohlman.

February Second-Sunday Social February 11 at 5:00 p.m.

Did you know that “Valentine’s Day” is also celebrated in Mexico? February 14 is celebrated in Mexico as *El Día de San Valentin*, but it’s more commonly referred to as *El Día del Amor y la Amistad*, the “day of love and friendship.” Valentine’s Day in Mexico isn’t restricted to romantic love; it’s also a day to show appreciation for friends.



Come and share with your friends in the Fellowship Hall! The meal will be a taco bar at 5:00 p.m. Please bring a dessert to share. We will play Mexican Train Dominos for our activity. If you have a set of dominos, please bring them.

Remember to bring your own table service.

Painting and Cleaning the Activity Center

A big thank you goes out to **Bob Fulton** for gathering a crew together to paint the Activity Center and bathrooms. The painting occurred on January 20 and 22. Painters were **Bob Fulton, Bill Miner, Paul Urioste, Dave Simons, Jon Ytell, Wendell Wallace, and Rich Kohlman**. Some painted on both days and some just on one of the days. Also, we want to recognize the huge contribution that **Marta Remmenga** made in cleaning all the chairs in the Activity Center. Her effort saved us hundreds of dollars!



Dave Simons and Bob Fulton



Paul Urioste



Jon Ytell



Wendell Wallace raiding the donuts



Marta Remmenga working hard on the chairs



Community of Christ

CHRIST'S MISSION, OUR MISSION

January 17, 2018

To our sisters and brothers in the Africa Field, Haiti, and El Salvador:

We greet you in the name of Christ and in the peace that Christ seeks for all human life.

Recently, the US president allegedly made derogatory comments about people from Africa, Haiti, and El Salvador. The reported comments are hurtful to many people around the world and in the church.

We are deeply sorry and distressed by any statement that devalues another human life and creates division. We also are greatly concerned about any attitude that implies that some lives are of less value than others because of one's nation of origin. This simply is not true.

As a worldwide faith community formed by the gospel of Christ and our Enduring Principles, we are saddened by the continued racism and injustice in the world. It is not God's will when humans are diminished based on where people live, the color of their skin, or by other categories used to divide and devalue. Our Enduring Principles in Community of Christ speak clearly of the Worth of All Persons. And we proclaim the Sacredness of Creation, which includes each human life as created by God, who then said "it was very good" (Genesis 1:31 NRSV).

As Community of Christ we uphold the principle of Unity in Diversity. We stand in solidarity with you as members of the church and citizens of the world. We offer our voices and our lives to speak against acts of hatred

expressed in racial, gender, and religious injustice that demean human life. Jesus tore down dividing walls (Ephesians 2:14), and God has called the church to uphold the welfare of all human life (Doctrine and Covenants 163:4).

We join all of you as we pray for peace and the end of racism in our world. We pray all world leaders will encounter the peace of Christ that makes all things new. And we hold all of you in prayer as we live with hope and determination to make God's peaceable reign—Zion—reality throughout the world.

In the spirit of peace and love,
The First Presidency

INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
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