

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.*



March 2018

Communicator

A monthly newsletter of



Community of Christ



Fort Collins, Colorado

A Welcoming Congregation

For everyone born, a place at the table

Creation Reflects God's Glory

by Richard Rohr

"The universe itself can be understood as the primary revelation of the divine." —Thomas Berry

"The Divine Presence is happening in, through, and amidst every detail of life. . . . [It] penetrates all that exists. Everything in virtue of coming into existence is in relationship to this Source." —Thomas Keating

"The incarnation of God did not only happen in Bethlehem two thousand years ago. It began



approximately 14 billion years ago with a moment that we now call 'The Big Bang' or what some call

'The Great Radiance.' At the birth of our universe, God materialized and revealed who God is. Ilia Delio writes: 'Human life must be traced back to the time when life was deeply one, a Singularity, whereby the intensity of mass-energy exploded into consciousness.' This Singularity provides a solid basis for inherent reverence, universal sacrality, and a spiritual ecology that transcends groups and religions.

"St. Thomas Aquinas (1225–1274) stated, 'The immense diversity and pluriformity of this creation more perfectly represents God than any one creature alone or by itself.' However, most Christians thought humans were the only creatures that God cared about, and all else—animals, plants, light, water, soil, minerals—

was just 'food' for our own sustenance and enjoyment. I do not believe that the Infinitely Loving Source we call God could be so stingy and withholding, and only care about one species—unless that care would lead to care for everything else too, which I would call full consciousness. That is the unique human gift.

"God created millions of creatures for millions



of years before Homo sapiens came along. Many of these beings are too tiny for us to see or have yet to be discovered; some have seemingly no

benefit to human life; and many, like the dinosaurs, lived and died long before we did. Why did they even exist? A number of the Psalms say that creation exists simply to reflect and give glory to God (e.g., Psalm 104). The deepest meaning of creation and creatures is their naked existence itself. God has chosen to communicate God's very Self in multitudinous and diverse shapes of beauty, love, truth, and goodness, each of which manifests another facet of the Divine. (See Job 38–39, Wisdom 13:1–9, Romans 1:20.) Once you can see this, you live in an enchanted and spiritually safe world.

"Christians have gotten ourselves into a muddle by not taking incarnation and creation as the body of God seriously. As theologian Sallie McFague writes, 'Salvation is the direction of creation, and creation is the place of salvation.'

All is God's place, which is our place, which is the only and every place.

"I hope that our very suffering now, our crowded presence in this nest that we have largely fouled, will bring us together politically and religiously. The Earth and its life systems, on which we all entirely depend, still have the potential to convert us to a universal maturity. We all breathe the same air and drink the same water. There are no Native, Hindu, Jewish, Christian, or Muslim versions of the universal elements. The periodic table is the same in every country, or as Shakespeare and musician Mandisa expressed it, we all bleed the same. Animals do not care whether they are on the Mexican or the American side of our delusional wall."

March Calendar



Check the website:

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

- Mar. 4: Adult Class, 9:45 p.m.
Worship, 11:00 a.m.
Communion Sunday
First Sunday Giving
- Mar. 7: Worship Coordinators, 3:30 p.m.
Leadership Council, 4:00 p.m.
- Mar. 8: Take-Away Lunch volunteers at
Murphy Center, 10:00–noon
- Mar. 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.
- Mar. 18: Adult Class, 9:45 a.m.
Worship, 11:00 a.m.
Communicator items due.
- Mar. 24: 8:00 a.m., Saturday Morning Homeless
Breakfast (All are welcome to come
by and help.)
- Mar. 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 talk with Jon Ytell first to make sure it is available. Thank you.

Financial Report



January Income

World Church

Use where needed most	\$2,360.00
Abolish Poverty/End Suffering	214.04
Total	\$2,574.04

Local

Local Operating	\$3,033.55
Building Fund	1,090.00
Two-Cents-a-Meal	109.71
Family Assistance	125.00
Youth Fund	12.00
Narcotics Anonymous Pledge	1,110.00
Other (Memorial Fund Donations)	8,750.00
Total	\$14,120.26

—Gary and Ruth Chatburn, CFO

Fort Collins Congregation

Operating Offerings Only

2018 Disciples' Generous Response

Month	Total		Total Operating Giving
	World Operating	Local Operating	
January	2,574.04	3,033.55	5,607.59
February	-	-	-
March	-	-	-
April	-	-	-
May	-	-	-
June	-	-	-
July	-	-	-
August	-	-	-
September	-	-	-
October	-	-	-
November	-	-	-
December	-	-	-
TOTALS	\$ 2,574.04	\$ 3,033.55	\$ 5,607.59
Balance	46%	54%	

From Your Facilities Management Team

New Cleaning Service: For those of you who are not aware, we have made a change in our cleaning services for our facilities. A.R.C. Incorporated was selected from five (5) perspective companies that supplied work scopes and pricing to provide cleaning services for our facilities. They began cleaning our facilities February 1, 2018 with Friday and Monday evenings being the current days that various cleaning tasks will be performed. The Activity Center is not currently included pending a determination of how best to clean this particular facility.

Trash and Recycle Dumpsters: New dumpsters have been delivered to our parking lot by Gallegos Sanitation. The previous 2-cubic-yard trash dumpster (with no lid) has been replaced with a – cubic-yard locking lid trash dumpster. The previous recycle cart has been replaced with a 2 cubic yard locking lid recycle dumpster. Increased trash and recycle material from events being held in the Activity Center and the Fellowship Hall along with “trash contributions from the public” necessitated this change. The new dumpsters also have a new location. They have been placed next to the Activity Center west wall next to the air-conditioning compressor unit.

Stairway Work: The next time you see Paul Urioste, say “Thank you.” Paul has spent time getting the stairway steps going from the Educational Building entrance down into the Fellowship Hall cleaned up and looking nice. He says that he still has a little more to do on them. Paul plans to start working on the Activity stairway steps pretty soon. If you would like to help Paul, please contact him and let him know.

Sanctuary Lighting: It has been expressed again that some of our congregation members are continuing to have trouble with reading and seeing during the worship services with the

current installed fluorescent lighting fixtures. We have not ignored your concerns and will be exploring ways that we can move this project forward with congregation approval. The problem is not necessarily the lighting fixtures themselves, but the ceiling and what needs to be done to make it esthetically pleasing when the old lighting fixtures are removed and the new lighting fixtures are installed. Discussions regarding this project will occur at the Facilities Management Team’s March 2018 meeting.

Notes from the CFO’s Desk

Narcotics Anonymous Support Pledge: In the first month of the new year, we have almost achieved our pledge goal of \$1,800.00 for 2018 with actual donations of \$1,110.00 thru January 31, 2018. Combining the donations already received with the donation amounts pledged by households for the remainder of 2018, we will exceed our goal of \$1,800.00 by approximately \$60.00. We want to thank those who have given so graciously in support of this need.

Capital Projects: No funds have been expended yet for Capital Projects. The Facilities Management Team will be determining soon the first three budget-approved projects that are to be started and in what order.

January 2018 Offerings: We are off to a good start for the year. Our net World and Local Income for January 2018 was buoyed up with an \$8,750.00 donation from an estate. If it had not been for this generous donation, our total net World and Local Income would have been \$2,272.42.

Contribution Receipts: By now, each of you should have received your contribution receipt for the offerings you gave in 2017. If you have any questions about your receipt, please contact Ruth or Gary Chatburn.

2018 Disciples' Generous Response

WORLD & LOCAL	January 2018	Year to Date
INCOME	\$	\$
World Mission Tithes	\$2,360.00	\$2,360.00
Abolish Poverty, End Suffering	214.04	214.04
Local Operating Income	3,033.55	3,033.55
Building Fund	1,090.00	1,090.00
Family Assistance	125.00	125.00
2 Cents A Meal Offerings	109.71	109.71
Youth Fund	12.00	12.00
Narcotics Anonymous Pledge	1,110.00	1,110.00
Other Inc./Donations	8,750.00	8,750.00
Income Total:	16,804.30	16,804.30
EXPENSES / TRANSFERS		
World Mission Tithes Transfer to World IHQ	3,309.00	3,309.00
Abolish Poverty Funds Transfer to World IHQ	234.13	234.13
Outreach Ministries	0.00	0.00
Worship Ministries	186.71	186.71
Youth Ministries	0.00	0.00
Mission, Vision, Educ. & Training	0.00	0.00
Pastoral Ministries	0.00	0.00
Fellowship Ministries	0.00	0.00
Administration & Communications	491.86	491.86
Stewardship		
- Utilities	767.86	767.86
- Insurance	0.00	0.00
- Mission Center Support	0.00	0.00
- Custodial Services	300.00	300.00
- Facilities Supplies	105.98	105.98
- Facilities Maint.	360.69	360.69
- Equipment Maint.	0.00	0.00
- Other	25.65	25.65
Expense/Transfer Total:	5,781.88	5,781.88
Net Income:	11,022.42	11,022.42

ACTIVITY CENTER	January 2018	Year to Date
INCOME	\$	\$
Facility Rental Income	440.00	440.00
Income Total:	440.00	440.00
EXPENSES		
Operational Expense	0.00	0.00
Promotional Expense	0.00	0.00
Building Maint.	188.41	188.41
Equipment Maint.	0.00	0.00
Expense Total:	188.41	188.41
Net Income:	251.59	251.99

COURTYARD BUILDING	January 2018	Year to Date
INCOME	\$	\$
Facility Rental Income	1,625.00	1,625.00
Income Total:	1,625.00	1,625.00
EXPENSES		
Utilities	70.67	70.67
Insurance	0.00	0.00
Operational Exp - Other	0.00	0.00
Building Maint.	0.00	0.00
Equipment Maint.	0.00	0.00
Expense Total:	70.67	70.67
Net Income:	1,554.33	1,554.33

CAPITAL EXPENSE	January 2018	Year to Date
EXPENSE	\$	\$
Expense Total:	0.00	0.00



March Birthdays

Bianca Clark	03/01
Carol Birks	03/05
Tim Sundell	03/12
Taylor Bridwell	03/15
Sara Rolfe	03/15
Marta Remmenga	03/16
Shari Smith	03/17
Kelly Jackson	03/22
Lee Cook	03/24
Bill Florom	03/25
Ashley McKenzie	03/27
Jared Clark	03/31



Speakers, Planners, Keyboard, Greeters, and Nursery

Speakers

- ❖ Mar. 4: Deb Friesz
- ❖ Mar. 11: Shirley Remmenga
- ❖ Mar. 18: Sharon Troyer
- ❖ Mar. 25: Kurt Remmenga

Planners

- ❖ Mar. 4: Deb Friesz
- ❖ Mar. 11: Debbie Jones
- ❖ Mar. 18: Bettie Miller
- ❖ Mar. 25: Danise Remmemga

Keyboard

- ❖ Mar. 4: Kay Bunch
- ❖ Mar. 11: Tom Beck
- ❖ Mar. 18: Sharon Fulton
- ❖ Mar. 25: Stephanie Gustave

Greeters

- ❖ March: Donna Clark and Jean Newman

Nursery

- ❖ Mar. 4: Marilyn Garner
- ❖ Mar. 11: Gary Chatburn
- ❖ Mar. 18: Marta Remmenga
- ❖ Mar. 25: Sharon Fulton

March Second-Sunday Social

March 11 at 5:00 p.m.

Watch for announcements in the Sunday bulletins and Church Updates for information.



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.



Book Club

- DATE: Thursday, March 15
 TIME: 1:00 p.m.
 PLACE: Ruth Chatburn's home
 BOOK: *Same Kind of Different as Me*—VIDEO
 (We will compare the book vs. video)
 REFRESHMENTS: Everyone bring a snack to share.