

***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

October 2018

For everyone born, a place at the table

Healing Addiction

—Richard Rohr

I've shared some of Western Christianity's weaknesses—for example, how we have over-emphasized separateness, sin, and external religious exercises. But Western Christianity has unique gifts and strengths to offer. The dynamism of Western civilization has led to what I might call the "secularization" of the Gospel message into many side streams and rivulets. A strong example of this might be Twelve-Step programs and many other healing and transformational experiences that have now emerged outside of the formal boundaries of Christianity. You cannot kill the Gospel or true wisdom! Living things keep taking on ever new forms of life.

In creating Alcoholics Anonymous in 1935, Bill Wilson and Dr. Bob Smith, with typical American pragmatism, designed a program that *really worked to change lives*. It is the same spirituality of imperfection that Jesus taught, Paul clarified, Francis and Clare of Assisi lived, and Thérèse of Lisieux brought to light for the modern world. Transformation has little to do with intelligence, willpower, or perfection. It has everything to do with honesty, humility, willingness, and surrender.

On the practical (read "transformational") level, the Gospel message of Jesus and the Twelve-Step message of Bill Wilson are largely the same. *Addiction* can be a metaphor for what the biblical tradition called *sin*. It is quite helpful to see sin, like addiction, as a

destructive *disease* instead of something for which we're culpable or punishable and that "makes God unhappy." If sin indeed makes God "unhappy," it is because *God loves us, desires nothing more than our happiness, and wills the healing of our disease*.

Pope Francis clearly understands sin in this way. Shortly after he proclaimed the Holy Year of Mercy in 2015, he was asked why humanity is so in need of mercy. He replied that in part it's due to "considering our illness, our sins, to be incurable, things that cannot be healed or forgiven. We lack the actual concrete experience of mercy. The fragility of our era is this, too: we don't believe that there is a chance for redemption; for a hand to raise you up; for an embrace to save you, forgive you, pick you up, flood you with infinite, patient, indulgent love; to put you back on your feet. We need mercy."

Much of Jesus' work was healing, with many of his teachings illustrating the healings. Nine of Jesus' healing stories are actually exorcisms. While the term may be off-putting, the fact that there are so many exorcisms in the Gospels speaks to their importance. I believe "possession by devils" refers to what we now call addiction. The "possessed" person is in some sense trapped by a larger force and is powerless to do anything about it. The only cure for possession is "repossession" by Something Greater than the disease. This is why Bill Wilson said that a "vital spiritual experience" is necessary for full recovery. I'm convinced that when the great medieval spiritual teachers talked so much about *attachment*, they were really talking about

addiction. We are all attached and addicted in some way. At the very least, we are addicted to our compulsive dualistic patterns of thinking, to our preferred self-image, and to the usually unworkable programs for happiness we developed in childhood—which then showed themselves to be inadequate or even wrong.



The Donation Taskforce is running low on the following items: queen and twin beds, dressers, and dining tables, and chairs. With many families moving into permanent housing, we are putting lots of gently used items to good use. Please text or call (970) 371-5345 or call Jodi Loecke at (970) 371-5345 to discuss possible donations.

The Day Center is currently accepting donations of toiletries such as shampoo, conditioner, body wash, wash cloths, and razors (travel size or regular size).

Second-Sunday Social



Annual
Harvest Party.
Sunday,
October 14,

4:30 p.m. Pumpkin carving!
Chili cookoff! Costumes! Bring food to share.



World Hunger Sunday



October Calendar



Check the website:

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

- Oct. 3: Worship Coordinators, 3:30 p.m.
Leadership Council, 4:00 p.m.
- Oct. 7: Adult Class, 9:30 a.m.
Worship, 10:30 a.m.
Communion Sunday
First Sunday Giving
- Oct. 11: Take-Away Lunch volunteers at
Murphy Center, 10:00–noon
- Oct. 14: Adult Class, 9:30 a.m.
Worship, 10:30 a.m.
Children's Classes
Second-Sunday Offering
Second-Sunday Social, 5:00 p.m.
- Oct. 21: Adult Class, 9:30 a.m.
Worship, 10:30 a.m.
Communicator items due
- Oct. 25: Book Club, 2:00 p.m., at the Miner
home
- Oct. 27: Saturday Morning Homeless Breakfast
(All are welcome to come by and help.)
- Oct. 28: Adult Class, 9:30 a.m.
Worship, 10:30 a.m.
Children's Classes

October Birthdays



Eric Fronapfel	10/2
Mary Kohlman	10/7
Jon Mendenhall	10/14
Gilbert Pagat	10/21
Ben Miller	10/21
Nancy Miller	10/23
Danise Remmenga	10/26
Rick Bunch	10/28
Aidan Dicke	10/30

Financial Report



July Income

World Church

Use where needed most	\$2,410.00
Abolish Poverty/End Suffering	324.00
Total	\$2,734.00

Local

Local Operating	\$3,002.11
Building Fund	780.00
Two-Cents-a-Meal	74.43
Family Assistance	70.00
Youth Fund	257.00
Narcotics Anonymous Pledge	85.00
Total	\$4,268.54

—Gary and Ruth Chatburn, CFO

Fort Collins Congregation Operating Offerings 2018 Disciples' Generous Response

Month	Total World Operating	Local Operating	Total Operating Giving
January	2,574.04	3,033.55	5,607.59
February	2,584.95	2,650.39	5,235.34
March	2,667.00	3,309.30	5,976.30
April	3,030.74	3,364.31	6,395.05
May	2,618.00	4,093.00	6,711.00
June	3,523.00	2,920.00	6,443.00
July	2,734.00	3,002.11	5,736.11
August			-
September			-
October			-
November			-
December			-
TOTALS	\$ 19,731.73	\$ 22,372.66	\$ 42,104.39
Balance	47%	53%	

Book Club For October



DATE: Thursday, October 25

TIME: 2:00 p.m.

PLACE: Pat and Bill Miner home

BOOK: *The Worst Hard Time: The Untold Story of Those Who Survived the Great American Dust Bowl* by Timothy Egan

BRING: Snack to share



Speakers, Planners, Keyboard, Greeters, and Nursery

Speakers

- ❖ Oct. 7: Richard James DVD
- ❖ Oct. 14: Special Service
- ❖ Oct. 21: Marilyn Garner
- ❖ Oct. 28: Nancy Miller

Planners

- ❖ Oct. 7: Debbie Jones
- ❖ Oct. 14: Rich and Kay Bunch
- ❖ Oct. 21: Marilyn Garner
- ❖ Oct. 28: Ruth Chatburn

Keyboard

- ❖ Oct. 7: Sharon Fulton
- ❖ Oct. 14: Stephanie Gustave
- ❖ Oct. 21: Deb Friesz
- ❖ Oct. 28: Sharon Troyer

Greeters

- ❖ October: Dave and Voni Simons and Kathy Bridwell

Nursery

- ❖ Oct. 7: Marilyn Garner
- ❖ Oct. 14: Gary Chatburn
- ❖ Oct. 21: Marta Remmenga
- ❖ Oct. 28: Sharon Fulton

The September 16 congregation business meeting elected, sustained, or approved the following:

Pastor	Kurt Remmenga
Counselor	Nancy Miller
Counselor	David Garner

Administrative Assistant	Rich Kohlman
--------------------------	--------------

Auditor	Bill Miner
(term expires 12/31/19) No vote needed.	

Auditor	Glenn Smith
(term expires 12/31/20)	

Secretary	Marta Remmenga
FMT Advisor	Bill Miner
(term expires 12/31/21, 3-year term)	

Webmaster	Jon Mendenhall
-----------	----------------

Congregation Financial Officers	Gary and Ruth Chatburn
---------------------------------	------------------------

Historian	Max Coopwood
Recorder	Jon Mendenhall

Pastoral Functional Teams

Outreach Ministries

Interfaith Council Representatives	Rick and Kay Bunch
------------------------------------	--------------------

Murphy Center Lunch Assignments	Kathy Graybill
---------------------------------	----------------

Other Team Member(s)	Max Coopwood
----------------------	--------------

Worship Ministries

Coordinators	Tom Beck and Bettie Miller
Worship Team A	Dave Simons
Worship Team B	Tom Beck
Worship Team C	Bettie Miller
Worship Team D	Donna Clark
PA Assignments	Bettie Miller
Nursery Schedule	Bettie Miller
Keyboard and Music	Tom Beck

Speaker Assignments	Deb Friesz
Communion Prep	Nancy Miller

Pastoral Care Ministries

	Dave Simons
	Stephanie Gustave
	Shari Smith
	Danise Remmenga
	Mary Kohlman
Flowers	Joyce Worthington
Transportation	Donna Clark
Prayer Line	Donna Clark
Funeral Dinners	Debbie Jones

Stewardship Ministries (Financial and Facilities)

Congregation Financial Officers	Gary and Ruth Chatburn
---------------------------------	------------------------

Facilities Management Team

CFO/Chairman	Gary Chatburn
Pastor	Kurt Remmenga
Building Operations	Jon Ytell
Building Maintenance	Bob Fulton
FMT Advisor	Jean Newman
(term expires 12/31/19)	
FMT Advisor	Stephanie Gustave
(term expires 12/31/20)	
FMT Advisor	Bill Miner
(term expires 12/31/21)	

Fellowship (Social) Ministries

	Marilyn Garner
	Pat Miner
	Lillian Wallace
	Sharon Fulton

Education Ministries

	Sharon Fulton
	Carrie Newman Levy
	Donna Clark
	Lisa Garner

Youth Ministries

Shirley Remmenga

Election of Delegates to RMMC Conference

Gary Chatburn

Ruth Chatburn

Stephanie Gustave

Shirley Remmenga

Mission Center

Generosity Funding for the Mission Center was approved for \$4,320.

Audits

The audits for 2015, 2016, and 2017 were accepted.

Worship and Class Meeting Times

Class and worship times were changed to 9:30 a.m. for adult class and 10:30 a.m. for worship. These times will carry over for the summer as well.

Courtyard Building

Information was also shared about the Courtyard Building. It appears that the cost to repair the building are probably prohibitive, and we may need to demolish it. The cost to do that is yet to be determined. The Facility Management Team is continuing to work on this and exploring various options to be brought to the congregation at a future business meeting.

Financial Status

Operating income is exceeding expenses through August when we include the rental income from our facilities. Assuming we will lose significant rental income in 2019, we will need to increase our operating offerings to cover expenses.

Seasonal Overflow Shelter

The current plan being looked at is to use our facility for women only this coming winter and may include all nights rather than the four as last year.

Other business included the need to have better airflow and cleaning throughout our facility especially the Activity Center.



It's a beautiful time of year to live in Colorado. Take some time to visit the mountains and enjoy the aspen trees and the elk in Rocky Mountain National Park.

