

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 2018

Vulnerable to Hope

—Rich Kohlman

The great mystery of God's love is that we are not asked to live as if we are not hurting, as if we are not broken. In fact, we are invited to recognize our brokenness as a brokenness in which we can come in touch with the unique way that God loves us. The great invitation is to live your brokenness under the blessing. I cannot take people's brokenness away and people cannot take my brokenness away. But how do you live in your brokenness? Do you live your brokenness under the blessing or under the curse? The great call of Jesus is to put your brokenness under the blessing.

—Henri J.M. Nouwen

Lecture at Scarritt-Bennett Center

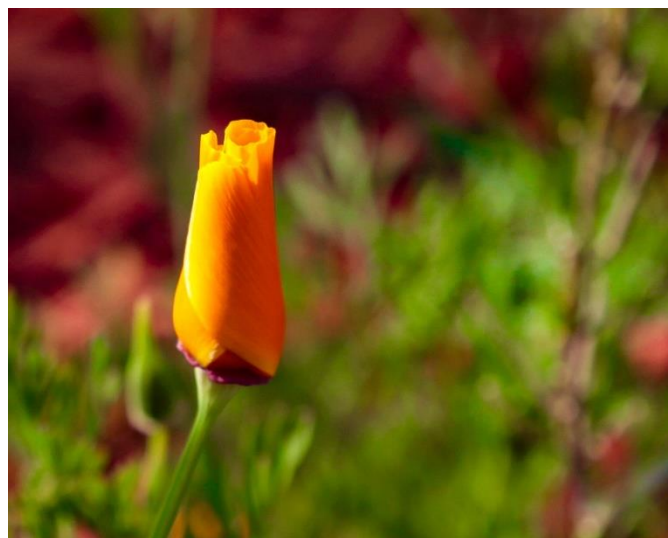
President Veazey was sharing with field leaders a few years ago and was talking about Section 163. On this day he referred to the statement "**Be vulnerable to divine grace.**" In expanding on his understanding of what that meant he also used the phrase "**be vulnerable to hope.**" That phrase caught my attention because I realized that while I was willing to be vulnerable to grace, I was not willing to be vulnerable to hope at that particular moment. I was willing to live in my brokenness but not

put it "under the blessing" as Nouwen suggests.

Robert J. Wicks in his book ***Riding the Dragon*** says, "Balancing compassion for others with a deep kindness and reverence for our own inner self can actually be quite simple and powerful if we take time to do it right. . . . [This is] the wisdom of self-care."

Blending the above two insights helps me to see that to do self-care right means to be open to the vulnerability of hope. To allow God to love us, in and with our brokenness. To put our whole selves under Divine Blessing rather than under the curse of our dark selfish sides.

My prayer is that we can become vulnerable to hope, together!



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.

While trying to beat the heat, families are using the Day Center showers more each day for personal hygiene. The Day Center is currently accepting donations of toiletries such as shampoo, conditioner, body wash, wash cloths, and razors (travel size or regular size).

New Address

Sharon Troyer
4786 McMurry Ave, Apt. #136
Fort Collins, CO 80525

Realities for Children



Realities for Children has once again asked the church if we would be willing to collect school supplies and backpacks for kids in Larimer Country. A box will be set up in the church foyer with



a sign, and we will collect supplies for the month of August and a couple weeks in September. Thank you for bringing in supplies to share with the kids.

Second-Sunday Social

The social for September will be a round-table discussion to continue the sharing from the morning's worship on September 9. It will be a potluck.

September Calendar



Check the website:

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

- Sep. 2: Worship, 10:00 a.m.
 Communion Sunday
 First Sunday Giving
- Sep. 5: Worship Coordinators, 3:30 p.m.
 Leadership Council, 4:00 p.m.
- Sep. 9: Worship, 10:00 a.m.
 Children's Classes
 Second-Sunday Offering
 Second-Sunday Social, 12:00 p.m.
 Round-table discussion to continue from the morning worship. It will include a potluck.
- Sep. 13: Take-Away Lunch volunteers at Murphy Center, 10:00–noon
- Sep. 16: Worship, 10:00 a.m.
 Business Meeting for the election/sustaining of officers
- Sep. 20: Book Club, 1:00 p.m. at the Bunch home
- Sep. 22: Saturday Morning Homeless Breakfast (All are welcome to come by and help.)
- Sep. 23: Adult Class
 Worship
 Children and Youth Classes (Times to be determined on 9/16.)
Communicator items due.
- Sep. 30: Fifth-Sunday Pancake Breakfast and Forum
 Adult Class
 Worship (Times to be determined on 9/16.)

Christian Education

Children's classes will begin again on Sunday, September 9.

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
Joy Cunningham	9/30

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 2017 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 Starts Again in September

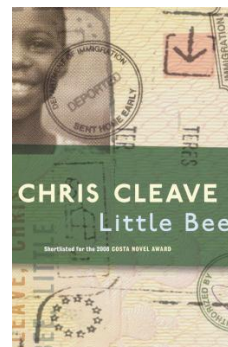
DATE: Thursday, September 20

TIME: 1:00 p.m.

PLACE: Kay and Rick Bunch home

BOOK: *Little Bee* by Chris Cleave

BRING: Snack to share





Speakers, Planners, Keyboard, Greeters, and Nursery

Speakers

- ❖ Sep. 2:
- ❖ Sep. 9: Table Fellowship
- ❖ Sep. 16: Business Meeting
- ❖ Sep. 23: Shirley Remmenga
- ❖ Sep. 30:

Planners

- ❖ Sep. 2: Bob Fulton
- ❖ Sep. 9: Rick Bunch
- ❖ Sep. 16: Tom Beck
- ❖ Sep. 23: Stephanie Gustave
- ❖ Sep. 30: Shari Smith

Keyboard

- ❖ Sep. 2: Stephanie Gustave
- ❖ Sep. 9: Tom Beck
- ❖ Sep. 16: Kay Bunch
- ❖ Sep. 23: Sharon Troyer
- ❖ Sep. 30: Jean Newman

Greeters

- ❖ September: Pat and Bill Miner

Nursery

- ❖ Sep. 2: Marilyn Garner
- ❖ Sep. 9: Gary Chatburn
- ❖ Sep. 16: Marta Remmenga
- ❖ Sep. 23: Sharon Fulton
- ❖ Sep. 30:

New West Fest – August 10-12, 2018

New West Fest 2018 has been completed and is in the books. We had 1,126 guests visit us at our “Oasis” rest stop where it was nice and cool. Those guests were greeted and welcomed by 26 volunteers of our congregation, some who worked a double shift in order to allow us to be open during all of our time periods. We want to thank everyone who participated in so many different ways at this event. For those of you who were not able to assist this year, there will be another opportunity next year!

From Your Facilities Management Team

Courtyard Building:

The Facilities Management Team has been given information to consider and review regarding the condition of the Courtyard Building. It is planned to have information and recommendations made available to the congregation for discussion at the Congregational Business Meeting scheduled for September 16, 2018.

Notes from the CFO's Desk

Contribution Receipts: Distribution or mailing of mid-year contribution receipts has been completed. If you have not received your receipt, please contact Ruth Chatburn.

Contribution Receipt Line Items: You may have noticed on your recent contribution receipt that the totals were right, but some of your contributions may have shown up a little different than what you indicated on your offering envelope. Well, this happens sometimes because the Shelby Software System (World Church Accounting System) does not contain some of our local or Mission Center accounting codes. For instance, if you made a contribution to the “Narcotics Anonymous Support Fund,” it will show up on your contribution receipt on the line item for “All Other Local.” The same is true for some contributions, but not all, that are made to some of the Mission Center camps, reunions, and conferences. They too are recorded on the line item “All Other Local” on your receipt.

So, how do we make sure that the funds that you designate go to the proper account? First of all, we only use the Shelby Software System to document what is received from individuals, groups, estates, etc. This system allows us to provide you with the proper receipts for your

contributions. We do not use the Shelby System for anything else. For the purpose of tracking congregational financial activity and transactions, we use QuickBooks accounting software to handle these items. QuickBooks is used to develop budgets, compare income and expenditures against the budget, track income, track expenses, and to allocate received income, donations, and gifts to the proper financial accounts and funds. QuickBooks is also our check register, and we use it to track check writing to pay bills, reimburse individuals for “out of pocket” expenses, process electronic fund transfers (EFT), etc. QuickBooks is also used to back check the data that is entered into the Shelby System. There you have it. If you have questions, let Gary and Ruth Chatburn know.



Annual Picnic in the Park

