

***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*

**February 2019**

**For everyone born, a place at the table**

## Trusting the Divine Image and Likeness

—Richard Rohr

In the practical order, we find our Original Goodness, the image of God that we are, when we can discover and own the faith, hope, and love deeply planted within us:

A trust in inner coherence itself. “It all means something!” (Faith)

A trust that this coherence is positive and going somewhere good. (Hope)

A trust that this coherence includes me and even defines me. (Love)

This is the soul’s foundation. That we are capable of such trust and surrender is the objective basis for human goodness and holiness, and it almost needs to be re-chosen day by day lest we continue to slide toward cynicism, victim playing and making, or self-pity. No philosophy or government, no law or reason, can fully promise or offer us this attitude, but the Gospel can and does. Healthy religion shares a compelling and attractive foundation for human goodness and dignity and shows us ways to build on that foundation.

Being created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27) gives everyone an equal and inherent dignity. However, in every age and culture, we have seen regressions toward racism, sexism, homophobia, militarism, ableism, and classism. This pattern tells me that unless we see dignity

as being given universally, objectively, and from the beginning by God, we humans will constantly think it is up to us to decide. But this tragic history demonstrates that one group cannot be trusted to portion out worthiness and dignity to another. Our criteria tend to be self-referential and thus highly prejudiced, and the powerless and the disadvantaged always lose out. Even the United States’ aspirational Declaration of Independence—which states that “all men [originally meaning white, property-owning males] are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights”—has not empowered marginalized groups to apportion those rights equally.

For the planet and for all living beings to move forward, we can rely on nothing less than *an inherent original goodness and a universally shared dignity*. Only then can we build, because the foundation is strong, and is itself good. Surely this is what Jesus meant when he told us to “dig and dig deep, and build your house on rock” (Luke 6:48). When we start with yes (or a positive vision), we are more likely to proceed with generosity and hope, and we have a much greater chance of ending with an even bigger yes, which we would call “resurrection.”



## Second-Sunday Social



Come to the Second Sunday Social right after church on February 10. We've invited Greeley and Loveland Congregations to join us for church and the social immediately after church. We have nearly 30 guests coming! Sign up to help and to tell us you're coming.

We will start with a short "barn dance" activity. Dinner will be served around 1:00 p.m. It will be ham, applesauce, potato casserole, carrots, salad, dinner rolls, and a Fondue bar for dessert. Please RSVP as soon as possible.

## February Calendar



Check the website:

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

- Feb. 3: Worship, 10:30 a.m.  
Communion Sunday  
First-Sunday Giving
- Feb. 6: Worship Coordinators, 5:30 p.m.  
Leadership Council, 6:00 p.m.
- Feb. 10: Worship, 10:30 a.m.  
Children's Classes  
Second-Sunday Offering  
**Second-Sunday Social, 1:00 p.m.**
- Feb. 14: Take-Away Lunch volunteers at  
Murphy Center, 10:00–noon
- Feb. 17: Worship, 10:30 a.m.  
**Communicator** items due
- Feb. 21: Book Club, 2:00 p.m.
- Feb. 23: Saturday Morning Homeless Breakfast  
(All are welcome to come by and help.)
- Feb. 24: Worship, 10:30 a.m.  
Children's Classes

## From Your Facilities Management Team

**"A Big Thank You" from the Women Staying in the City of Fort Collins Seasonal Overflow Shelter:** Catholic Charities asked

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that we pass this note of gratitude onto the congregation and its leadership. The women who have been staying in the seasonal overflow shelter this winter are extremely grateful and thankful to Community of Christ for allowing them to spend their nights in our facility. They feel much more secure than they have ever felt in the past. Also, as a result of being together in our facility, they have formed a community amongst themselves which is giving them support. During the severe cold that moved through the Fort Collins area during the early part of January, 26–28 women were sheltered overnight in our facility. The overnight shelter on average shelters 18 – 22 women each night.

**New Thermostats are on the Way:** Some of the current thermostats for our building heat and air systems are not working properly. In order to better use our purchased energy efficiently and hopefully reduce some of our energy costs, new ecobee thermostats will be installed in phases to replace the existing thermostats in our building. The installation of these new thermostats will take place over the next several months.

## Notes from the CFO's Desk

**2018 Contribution Receipts:** Year-end receipts for your 2018 contributions will start being distributed during the first part of February 2019. When you receive your receipt, please review it to make sure that it agrees with your records. If you have any questions, please contact Ruth Chatburn, co-congregational financial officer.

**2019 Narcotics Anonymous Pledge Support Fund:** We will once again need to receive pledge funding in support of Narcotics Anonymous meeting in our facility. The pledge support for 2019 will be the same as 2018, \$1,800.00. This translates into needing to receive \$150.00 per month. Your generosity during 2018 in support of Narcotics Anonymous' mission has been, and continues to be, greatly appreciated.

## Financial Report



### December Income

#### World Church

Use where needed most	\$2,455.00
Abolish Poverty/End Suffering	383.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,838.00</b>

#### Local

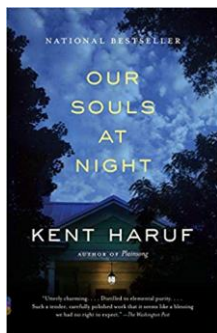
Local Operating	\$3,445.00
Building Fund	870.00
Two-Cents-a-Meal	72.25
Family Assistance	120.00
Youth Fund	63.72
Narcotics Anonymous Pledge	60.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,630.97</b>

### Summary of Local Expenses

Outreach Ministries	\$625.00
Worship Ministries	125.00
Youth Ministries	0.00
Mission, Vision & Education	5.89
Pastoral Ministries	16.37
Administration/Communications	617.24
Stewardship (Operational)	1,958.94
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$3,348.44</b>

—Gary and Ruth Chatburn, CFO

## BOOK CLUB For February



**DATE:** Thursday, February 21  
**TIME:** 2:00 p.m.  
**PLACE:** Donna Clark  
**BOOK:** *Our Souls at Night* by Kent Haruf  
**BRING:** A snack to share

## 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	2,590.55	2,772.00	5,362.55
September	2,956.00	2,726.00	5,682.00
October	2,261.00	3,204.97	5,465.97
November	2,277.00	2,994.00	5,271.00
December	2,838.00	3,445.00	6,283.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 32,654.28</b>	<b>\$ 37,514.63</b>	<b>\$ 70,168.91</b>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>53%</b>	

### February Birthdays



Susanna Garner	2/4
Marie Ytell	2/5
Hoss Davis	2/5
Jacee Davis	2/5
Donna Palmer	2/6
Don Worthington	2/10
Janny Kay McKenzie	2/16
Gene Bridwell	2/17
Jean Newman	2/19
Ruth Chatburn	2/20
Marcia Bridwell	2/22
Joyce Worthington	2/24



## Speakers, Planners, Keyboard, Greeters, and Nursery

### Speakers

- ❖ Feb. 3: Deb Friesz
- ❖ Feb. 10: Shirley Remmenga
- ❖ Feb. 17: Debbie Jones
- ❖ Feb. 24: Rich Kohlman

### Planners

- ❖ Feb. 3: Danise Remmenga
- ❖ Feb. 10: Deb Friesz
- ❖ Feb. 17: Bettie Miller
- ❖ Feb. 24: Bettie Miller

### Keyboard

- ❖ Feb. 3: Stephanie Gustave
- ❖ Feb. 10: Sharon Troyer
- ❖ Feb. 17: Kay Bunch
- ❖ Feb. 24: Deb Friesz

### Greeters

- ❖ February: Mary and Rich Kohlman

### Nursery

- ❖ Feb. 3: Marilyn Garner
- ❖ Feb. 10: Gary Chatburn
- ❖ Feb. 17: Marta Remmenga
- ❖ Feb. 24: Sharon Fulton

## My Word

—Shirley Remmenga

On the last Sunday of 2018, the congregation members present at the worship service came prepared to share a personal guide or motivational “word.” The words shared were: blessing, create, change, do, enthusiasm, helpful, hope, inclusive, independent, intentional, less, listen, peace, positive, study, and wait. Each “word” shared had usefulness and meaning in

the sharer’s heart. It was an inspiring congregational sharing time.

I have been looking and thinking about these “words” and realize that I could incorporate each of them deliberately into my life to give meaning and to enhance my daily thinking, acting, and being.

Perhaps, if you were not at this worship service, you have a “word” that will help guide and motivate you this year.

The congregation will have an opportunity later in this year to share how their “word” is being played out in their lives.

We celebrate and grow together. How’s the New Year going?

## Letter of Counsel about World Church Leadership Presented to the 2019 World Conference (Summary)

1. **Linda L. Booth** has served in the Council of Twelve Apostles since April 1998. She was one of the first women called to the office of apostle. In harmony with her intentions, Linda will be released with honor from the Council of Twelve and granted retirement at the 2019 World Conference.
2. **Rick W. Maupin** has served in the Council of Twelve since 2005. According to his desires, Rick will be released with honor from the Council of Twelve and granted retirement at the 2019 World Conference.
3. **Jane M. Gardner** will be granted retirement at the 2019 World Conference in accordance with her plans. However, while no longer having supervisory responsibility for various International Headquarters teams, Jane graciously has agreed to continue serving as presiding

evangelist on a self-sustaining basis, which includes World Church Leadership Council membership as before.

4. **Michele K. McGrath** will be released with honor as a counselor to the presiding bishop and member of the Presiding Bishopric at the 2019 World Conference. This action is occurring at her request to relieve her of demanding World Church responsibility so she can relocate and provide more support to her family.
5. **Catherine C. Mambwe** is called to serve as an apostle and member of the Council of Twelve. Catherine's strong faith in God, devotion to the gospel, and broad experience in church ministry, leadership, and finances are among her many gifts. Catherine expresses an evident love for people that transcends tribal, cultural, and national identities.
6. **David M. Nii** is called to serve as an apostle and member of the Council of Twelve. David's abiding love for the gospel and the church community equip him for this role and will find expanded expression through apostolic ministry. As a humble, wise minister, David is the epitome of the servant-leader in the likeness of Jesus Christ.
7. **Jeffrey A. Naylor** is called to serve as a counselor to the presiding bishop and member of the Presiding Bishopric. Jeff's commitment to the church is evidenced by his willingness to serve as a self-sustaining member of the Presiding Bishopric with full knowledge of what that calling entails. Jeff has excellent business and financial acumen as evidenced in his professional accomplishments and exemplary service on the World Church Finance Board.

I offer this counsel in gratitude to God for the dedicated service of those leaving World Church leadership roles and the willingness of gifted individuals to respond to calls. In the spirit of thankfulness, I also am aware that the willingness of World Church leaders to serve is but one aspect of the overall commitment of many who serve in ministry, priesthood, and leadership roles throughout the church.

I request that the calls presented in this Letter of Counsel be prayerfully considered for approval by the 2019 World Conference.

In the peace of Christ,  
Stephen M. Veazey,  
president of the church