

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



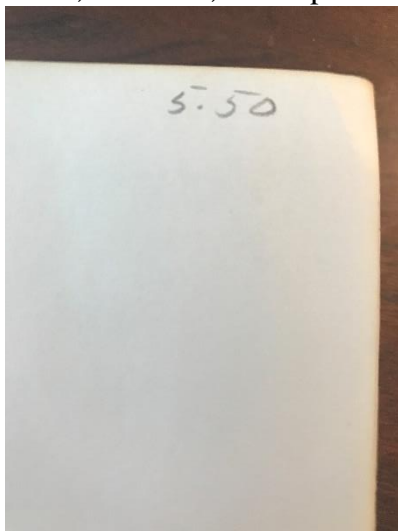
For everyone born, a place at the table

July 2020

"Scripture Inflation"

—Rich Kohlman

In 2008, I was looking for a scripture reference in the Bible my parents had given me for my sixteenth birthday, along with a Book of Mormon and a Doctrine and Covenants. At one point I found myself looking in the very front of my Bible where there are blank pages. No scriptures there, at least in my vision. What was there, however, was a price noted at \$5.50 (what my parents paid).



I began to wonder what the same Bible would sell for now in 2008. So I went downstairs from my office in the Temple to the Herald Bookstore. After locating the Bible, I noted that it was selling

for \$38.00, a 691% increase—if I did the math correctly.

The next thought was almost predictable. Had my knowledge of the Bible increased that much? And, more importantly, had my spirituality grown that much? I suppose I could measure the knowledge with some kind of test,

but how do you measure spirituality, one's relationship to the Divine? As I contemplated that question, the words of a favorite hymn came to me. A hymn that I remember from my youth and from prayer services at reunion, in particular.

*Breathe on me, Breath of God;
Fill me with life anew
That I may love what thou dost love
And do what thou wouldst do.*

*Breathe on me, Breath of God,
till I am wholly thine,
Until this earthly part of me
Glow with thy fire divine.*

—CCS 190, vs. 1, 2

The reality, at least for me, is that whatever my growth and knowledge might be, it will always be true that I continually need God's breath to fill me and make me new—if I am to live and love as God does.



©Rich Kohlman

Online Zoom Worship Services

We will continue to have Sunday morning worship services online via Zoom through at least September 1, 2020, due to the current COVID-19 environment. If you are having trouble connecting or gaining access to these online services, please call Gary Chatburn for assistance. If your computer hardware is not adequate, you can talk to Gary about that too, and he can check on possible solutions for you.

These Zoom services are beneficial in keeping us connected during this time of separation. So, if you have not joined with us for an online worship service, we would encourage you to do so and get reconnected to your congregation. Also, you will most likely meet new friends from other parts of the United States that have been joining us for worship.

From Your Facilities Management Team

Seasonal Overnight Shelter: The City of Fort Collins Seasonal Overnight Shelter completed its operations for the 2019–2020 season on May 31, 2020. This was one month longer than normal due to the COVID-19 environment. The City of Fort Collins wanted to extend the operation by one month to try and help people without homes to be able to maintain social distancing protocols at night while they were sleeping.

The Activity Center is currently scheduled to have a “final cleaning” during the next couple of weeks. The indoor/outdoor carpeted areas of the Activity Center will be cleaned and sanitized at that time.

It should be noted that the Activity Center restrooms and assembly area started being cleaned and sanitized daily when it became apparent the first of March 2020 that the COVID-19 coronavirus was going to be a problem for the community.

Church Lawn Irrigation System: The sprinkler system was recently turned on and checked for proper operation. After the initial inspection and operation, the system had to be turned off due to maintenance issues that were found. Two of the irrigation control valves malfunctioned, and a couple of the sprinkler heads were found to be damaged. Also, some of the sprinkler heads need to be straightened and adjusted for proper lawn watering coverage. Repairs are scheduled to be made during the week of June 28, 2020.

Building Projects: Some current building projects have been either slowed down or delayed pending an analysis of our financial status at the end of the summer, as well as input from the congregation. With the COVID-19 environment that we are facing now, and for the near future, the congregation will be challenged with an increase in additional expenses that will be necessary to meet current World Church, state, and local directives when the facilities are reopened.

Projects that are “life safety” or building maintenance related will move ahead slowly as required.

Notes from the CFO's Desk

1st and 2nd Quarter Contribution Receipts: Receipts for your 1st quarter 2020 contributions are continuing to be held for you. Receipts for your 2nd quarter 2020 contributions will be available toward the end of July 2020. Due to the current COVID-19 situation, we will plan to also hold your 2nd quarter receipt in lieu of mailing it right now. However, if you need your receipt(s) now, please let Ruth Chatburn know, (970) 833-0570, and she will take care of your request.

Contributions during Facilities Closure: Contributions have been stable since we have been separated due to COVID-19 restrictions. At the same time, too, our expenses have been level and close to what we have anticipated. Please continue to send your offerings and

contributions to Ruth and Gary Chatburn, congregation financial officers, to be processed into the accounts that you designate. The congregation has been good in its Disciples' Generous Response. As always, should you have any questions, please feel free to contact either Ruth or Gary.



Speakers, Planners, Keyboard, Greeters, and Nursery
(All on ZOOM for July)

Speakers

- ❖ July 5: Bill Gardner
- ❖ July 12: Debbie Jones
- ❖ July 19: Deena Burford
- ❖ July 26: Rich Kohlman

Planners

- ❖ July 5: Dave Simons
- ❖ July 12: Stephanie Gustave
- ❖ July 19: Nancy Miller
- ❖ July 26: Mary Kohlman



A Novel Bunch
No more meetings until the fall.

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July Birthdays



James Miller	7/1
Joan Green	7/4
Jay Ytell	7/4
Merly Pagat	7/5
Josh Birks	7/6
Liam Miller	7/9
Rich Kohlman	7/10
Larry Slocum	7/12
Don Wallis	7/13
Evie Birks	7/17
Thelma Slocum	7/17
Betty Jones	7/17
Logan Miller	7/20
Madison Clark	7/22
Gary Chatburn	7/22

Second-Sunday Social for July
is canceled.

And you thought self-isolation and social distancing was getting to you?



July Calendar



Check the website:

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

- July 4: **Independence Day-USA**
July 5: 10:30 a.m. ZOOM Worship Service
Communion Sunday
First-Sunday Giving
July 12: 10:30 a.m. ZOOM Worship Service
Second-Sunday Offering
Second-Sunday Social is
canceled.
July 19: 10:30 a.m. ZOOM Worship Service
(Communicator items due.)
July 26: 10:30 a.m. ZOOM Worship Service

Zoom and Avaya Space and other aps

Watch for weekly emails to see what services are available online and how to connect to them.



Not Everything Is Canceled

Sunshine is not canceled
Spring is not canceled
Love is not canceled
Relationships are not canceled
Reading is not canceled
Naps are not canceled
Devotion is not canceled
Music is not canceled
Imagination is not canceled
Kindness is not canceled
Conversations are not canceled
Humor is not canceled
Hope is not canceled

**Per the recommendation of
World Headquarters, the Rocky
Mountain Mission Center will be
canceling the following 2020
summer events
due to the ongoing concerns
with COVID-19.**

**July 18-25 Spectacular @ Graceland
July 4-11 Big Spruce Reunion
July 29-Aug. 2 Rockies Family Camp
Aug. 21-23 Western Slope Retreat**

What Are We Going to Do About Jesus?

By President Steve Veazey

A thorny triangle of conflict entangled the religious authorities, Roman rulers, and Jesus. As their worldviews clashed in Jerusalem during Passover, the short fuse of an explosive situation ignited.

The religious authorities alleged that Jesus had blasphemed by publicly proclaiming his oneness with God. They wanted him gone but did not have the authority to put him to death.

The Roman ruler, Pilate, had the authority to apply a death sentence, which is why the religious leaders implored him to do so. But Pilate believed the fate of Jesus was a religious matter, not a government one.

Nonetheless, the religious leaders and Pilate agreed on the central question: “What are we going to do about Jesus?”

The religious leaders enjoyed privilege and secure position. The Romans granted them a measure of autonomy contingent on their ability to keep Judea relatively calm.

They also benefited financially from collusion with the Romans. They cunningly designed a system to tax temple activity. The well-being of people, especially the poor and sick, who believed temple sacrifices were necessary to find favor with God, did not concern them.

But that troublesome Jesus kept proclaiming a different way of living. He called it the kingdom or reign of God. His message was one of human dignity in compassionate community. Jesus’ message and temple taxes could not coexist.

Furthermore, Jesus emphasized that the reign of God was already present when spiritually awake people lived its precepts of love of God and neighbors. The enthusiastic response of the local population threatened the religious

leaders and sounded like budding rebellion to the Romans.

There is no doubt Jesus was guilty! Jesus was guilty of lavish mercy, unbridled generosity, and leveling of relationships. He was guilty of acting to dismantle religious and political systems that caused unnecessary suffering in the lives of the “least of these.” Jesus was guilty of relentlessly laboring to make visible God’s reign of restored hope and peace for humanity and creation.

Everything about Jesus threatened the status quo, jealously guarded by the political and religious elite. Was Jesus trying to topple their “thrones” of comfort, intimidation, and power? Something had to be done about Jesus!

As this drama unfolded it became clear that those most adamantly opposed to Jesus didn’t have a clue about what was going on. Jesus already was living in a different realm, God’s realm, the realm of eternal truth, light, and love. And he invited people to radically change their assumptions about God and live there, too.

One response to truth that feels unbearable because of its potential to turn the world upside down is to kill the one who most visibly embodies it. That’s how the political and religious officials answered the question of “What are we going to do about Jesus?” Their answer was crucifixion.



However, the God of life and hope had a different answer: “Raise him up!”

Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised...

—Matthew 28:5–6 NRSV