

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 2020

For everyone born, a place at the table

"Living Jesus: A Spiritual Practice for Discovering Our Context"



By Katie Harmon-McLaughlin, Spiritual Formation Ministries

As we grow in discipleship, we are invited to see more clearly the sacred intersections that form us and inform how we see and respond to ourselves, others, and the world. Ongoing spiritual transformation continuously calls us to become more conscious of what restricts a free and faithful response to Christ's mission in and around us.

We begin to realize our context is the place where God's Spirit is revealed and enfleshed. Our context can create blind spots that keep us from realizing the fullness of God's vision for ourselves, others, and creation.

In Ron Harmon's article "Looking Back to See What Lies Ahead," he suggests:

"Context is challenging because even when we attempt to understand the rest of the story, we bring our own story with us. This story, a collection of our life experiences, forms our interpretive lens and shapes how we see and interpret events."

This spiritual practice is an opportunity to bring our interpretive lenses into prayer, asking for the Spirit's guidance to help us see what is shaping our perception of ourselves, others, and our Christian story. You may engage this prayer as individuals or communities.

1. Settle into the reality of God, present with you now and in all conditions. Pay attention to your breath as you start to quiet within. Take as much time as you need to gradually enter prayer.

2. Ask for the Spirit to reveal to you the lenses through which you see and interpret events in your life, faith, and world. Pray for the freedom to become aware of what restricts our vision so we can live consciously and faithfully in response to God's call. We also give thanks for the influences that have deepened our capacity to receive and embody the heart of the gospel for the sake of the world. We recognize that our life experience both blesses and impedes the ways we understand and interpret reality.

3. Prayerfully consider the intersecting realities that have been shaping you consciously and unconsciously. Slowly move through the list below, feeling the weight of each one, noticing how strongly they have shaped you, and how they intersect with each other. Bring any resistance or insight into your prayer, continually asking the Spirit to help you see more clearly.

- Race/ethnicity
- Gender
- Sexual orientation
- Geographic location
- Education
- Family
- Heritage
- Language
- Age
- Occupation
- Culture
- Ability
- Socio-economic status
- Religion
- Political ideology
- Community

4. Once you have prayed through this list for yourself, return to the list a second time and ask the Spirit to help you become aware of those who are different from you in each area. Notice how these sacred others might interpret events differently. Pray that your heart may widen and soften to the worldviews of others. How is God revealed both in diversity and unity?

5. Finally, bring everything you have been discovering in prayer before God to hold in silence. Record any insights, questions, or inner stirrings that arise. Notice how your context shapes the way you respond to the question, “Are we moving toward Jesus, the peaceful one?” Notice how awareness of the context of

others impacts how you respond to this guiding question.

6. Give thanks for God, who seeks to “become flesh in every new context.” (David Bosch)
Amen.

Online Zoom Worship Services

We will continue to have Sunday morning worship services online via Zoom through at least December 27, 2020, due to the current COVID-19 environment. As conditions change, this will be reevaluated. 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.

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.

Also remember that **cash offerings** like the **Second-Sunday Offering** are not being received as normally, so you might want to add that to the offerings you are sending to Ruth and Gary.



A Novel Bunch

will be meeting **October 15 at 1:30 p.m.** on Zoom. Everyone is invited and, if you wish, have books to suggest we read and discuss. Also, if you wish, tell us about a book or books you have read during this isolation time. For more information and connection instructions, contact Donna Clark or Kay Bunch.

October Birthdays



Eric Fronapfel	10/2
Mary Kohlman	10/7
Jon Mendenhall	10/14
Irene Chungag	10/14
Sydney Dorrance	10/15
Ben Miller	10/21
Gilbert Pagat	10/21
Nancy Simon	10/21
Nancy Miller	10/23
Danise Remmenga	10/26
Rick Bunch	10/28
Aidan Dicke	10/30



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

Speakers

- ❖ Oct. 4: Nancy Miller
- ❖ Oct. 11: NO SERVICE
- ❖ Oct. 18: Sharing Service
- ❖ Oct. 25: James Speer

Planners

- ❖ Oct. 4: Dave Simons
- ❖ Oct. 11: NO SERVICE
- ❖ Oct. 18: Deb Friesz and Shirley Remmenga
- ❖ Oct. 25: Nancy Miller

October Calendar



Check the website:

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

- Oct. 4: 10:30 a.m. ZOOM Worship Service
Communion Sunday
First-Sunday Giving
- Oct. 7: 6:00 p.m. ZOOM Leadership Council Meeting
- Oct. 11: 10:30 a.m. NO ZOOM Worship
Second-Sunday Offering
No Second-Sunday Social
- Oct. 15: 1:30 p.m. Novel Bunch on ZOOM
- Oct. 18: 10:30 a.m. ZOOM Worship Service
(Communicator items due)
- Oct. 25: 10:30 a.m. ZOOM Worship Service

Simons Support

If anyone would be interested in being a part of a support team to assist in helping at the Simons home (wearing masks), so Dave can have some time away occasionally for a couple of hours, please send an email or text to Stephanie Gustave urgustave@gmail.com (618) 528-4463.

Dave and Stephanie will work out a further plan and will notify those interested as to how and when they might assist.

—The Pastoral Team

Zoom, 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

Beauty is not canceled

Sunshine is not canceled

Fall 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

Change in Worship Service Schedule

As you are aware, Gary Chatburn has done a superb job in preparing all the elements necessary for us to participate in the Zoom weekly worship services. This includes connection information, graphics, YouTube, music, and on-screen announcements, as well as muting and unmuting the appropriate

people who are sharing in the service. This takes a huge amount of time each week. We have now completed 20 weeks of Zoom services.

Since Gary is the only one with the technological equipment and skills at this time, we face burning Gary out. Therefore, for the next three months: October, November, and December, we will **NOT** be having Zoom services produced by the Fort Collins congregation on the second Sunday of each month. This would be **October 11, November 8, and December 13.**

There are other congregations both in the mission center and in other mission centers who are also holding online services. For those Sundays we will forward connection information to you, as we have been doing, so you can participate with other congregations. If you have connection information for services outside the mission center that you think others would be interested in, please forward that information to me and I will see that it is distributed to all of you.

Congregation Business Meeting Recap September 27, 2020

At the business meeting on Sunday, September 27, the congregation:

1. Elected **Stephanie Gustave** as pastor
2. Sustained **Gary and Ruth Chatburn** as CFOs
3. Sustained **Max Coopwood** as Congregational Recorder and Historian
4. Approved **\$4,320** as support for the Mission Center budget
5. Elected the following as our delegates to the Mission Center Conference:
Stephanie Gustave
Shirley Remmenga
Sharon Troyer