

**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

April 2021

## "Overcoming Contact Bias"

By Richard Rohr

*Brian McLaren and Jacqui Lewis, my conversation partners in the recent podcast series, "Learning How to See", understand that Jesus' model of acceptance, inclusion, and love for "the other," helps us overcome and heal our biases. Brian describes what he calls "contact bias," when a lack of personal and ongoing contact with people who are different from us causes us to fail to see them for who they truly are:*

When I don't have intense and sustained personal contact with "the other," my prejudices and false assumptions go unchallenged. Think of the child who is told by people he trusts that people of another race, religion, culture, sexual orientation, or class are dirty and dangerous.

You can immediately see the self-reinforcing cycle: those people are dirty or dangerous, so I will distrust and avoid them, which means I will never have sustained and respectful interactive contact with them, which means I will never discover that they are actually wonderful people to be around. . . .

In this way, the prejudice cycle spins on, unchallenged across generations. As prejudice persists, it becomes embedded in cultures and institutions, creating systems of racism and

hatred, marginalizing groups who are stigmatized, dehumanized, scapegoated, exploited, oppressed, or even killed. . . .

But if we are willing to listen to ["the other"] and learn from them, we can break out of our contact bias, which opens us up to seeing in a new way. . . .



On page after page of the Gospels, Jesus doesn't dominate the other, avoid the other, colonize the other, intimidate the other, demonize the other, or marginalize the other. Instead, he incarnates into the other, joins the other in solidarity, protects the other, listens to the other, serves the other, and even lays down his life for the other. [1]

*Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis, who leads what she describes as a “multi-everything” congregation in New York City, shares the gifts that embracing the other can bring. She views inclusion as central to the Gospel call to love:*

The one we follow into mission and ministry—Jesus the Christ—was an avowed boundary crosser, a reformer of the religious and secular culture of his time. We are in good company when we lead the way on radical inclusion of those different from ourselves. In some contexts that might mean a black church reaching out to Korean neighbors, a Latino congregation starting a ministry to immigrant families from North Africa, or a Chinese church hosting an afterschool program for African American junior high students. . . . We believe the commitment to inclusion and diversity is a high calling, issued to all who count themselves as Christians, no matter what our ethnicity or culture. [2]

The more we bump into the folks who are so-called “other,” the more we are stretched, the more we are pulled out of that bias and have new truths because we have tangible evidence of the beautiful, powerful creativity of our God who made all of this diversity for us to enjoy. [3]

[1] Brian McLaren, *Why Don't They Get It? Overcoming Bias in Others (and Yourself)* (Self-published: 2019), [45-46, 90].

[2] Jacqueline J. Lewis and John Janka, *The Pentecost Paradigm: Ten Strategies for Becoming a Multiracial Congregation* (Westminster John Knox Press: 2018), 8.

[3] Adapted from Brian McLaren, Jacqui Lewis, with Richard Rohr, “Why Can't We See?,” October 5, 2020, in *Learning How to See*, episode 1 (Center for Action and Contemplation: 2020), podcast, MP3 audio

## **Leadership Council Meeting**

This meeting will be held on April 7 at 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM. Connection information will be provided before the meeting.

## **Online Zoom Worship Services**

Our Sunday morning online worship services via ZOOM have provided us with the means to stay in touch with each other and to worship together during this time of COVID-19. We miss the in-person togetherness, but we can still connect thru our ZOOM worship services and other meetings. If you are not attending these services, we want you to know that we miss your attendance. 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, as well as old friends, from other parts of the United States that have been joining us for worship. At the end of our services there is time to share and chat with each other about what is going on in your life as well as to share joys and concerns.

If you are having trouble connecting or gaining access to these online services, please call Gary Chatburn for assistance. If you do not have computer or phone devices, or your computer hardware and other devices are not adequate, you can talk to Gary Chatburn and he can check on possible solutions for you. We want to be able to include everyone in our congregational worship and activity events.

For those of you that have been attending the online services, we would be interested in knowing if there are other items that you would like to have included in the worship service format in addition to what you have been experiencing. Please forward your suggestions to Gary Chatburn.

## **Notes from the CFO's Desk**

**2021 First Quarter Contribution Receipts:** Contribution receipts for the first quarter of 2021 will be available mid-April 2021. As we did last year due to the COVID-19 environment and the desire to minimize expenses, we will not be mailing out receipts to contributors unless they

request to have one. If you need a 2021 first quarter contribution receipt, you may contact Ruth Chatburn to request that a receipt be mailed to you.



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

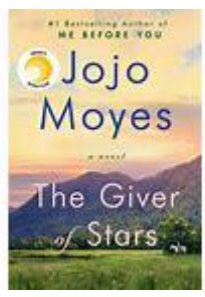
### Speakers

- ❖ Apr. 4: Stephanie Gustave (Easter)
- ❖ Apr. 11: No ZOOM Service
- ❖ Apr. 18: Debbie Jones
- ❖ Apr. 25: Sharing Service

### Planners

- ❖ Apr. 4: Bettie Miller
- ❖ Apr. 11: No ZOOM Service
- ❖ Apr. 18: James Speer
- ❖ Apr. 25: Deb Friesz & Shirley Remmenga

**2021 First Quarter Financial Status:** Since the April *Communicator* “goes to press” before the close of the first quarter, financial information for the first quarter of 2021 will be available in the May 2021 *Communicator*. If you have questions about the financial status of the congregation before then, you may contact Ruth or Gary Chatburn for assistance in answering your questions.



## A Novel Bunch

**Date:** April 15  
**Time:** 2:00 p.m. on ZOOM  
**Book:** *The Giver of Stars* by Jojo Moyes

Everyone is welcome. For ZOOM contact information, see Kay Bunch or Donna Clark.

Meeting ID and Passcode will be sent prior to the meeting.

## Spiritual Formation Group

Meets on Thursday, April 15 at 7:00 p.m.  
 Contact Sharon Troyer if you are interested in joining.

## April Calendar



Check the website:

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

## April Birthdays



|                 |       |
|-----------------|-------|
| Tonia Watts     | 04/01 |
| Rachel Muir     | 04/05 |
| Ryder Jackson   | 04/06 |
| Dave Simons     | 04/19 |
| Cinnamon Garner | 04/23 |
| Kay Bunch       | 04/25 |
| Avery Dicke     | 04/25 |
| Bettie Miller   | 04/30 |

- Apr. 4: 10:30 a.m. ZOOM Worship Service  
EASTER  
 Communion Sunday  
**First-Sunday Giving**
- Apr. 7: 7:00 p.m. Leadership Council Meeting via ZOOM
- Apr. 11: No ZOOM Worship  
**Second-Sunday Offering**
- Apr. 15: 2:00 p.m. Novel Bunch on ZOOM  
 7:00 p.m. Spiritual Formation Group
- Apr. 18: 10:30 a.m. ZOOM Worship Service  
 (*Communicator* items due)
- Apr. 25: 10:30 a.m. ZOOM Worship Service



# Joyous Worldwide Easter Service Planned



An online Easter worship event 4 April is shaping up to be a globally diverse celebration.

“Breathe New Life” airs at 4:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Central Daylight Time. Participants will be encouraged to post their thoughts in social media as the recorded service plays on YouTube and Facebook. Multiple languages will be available in captions.

Worship begins with a Tahitian guitar performance reflecting on Psalm 30:11:

You have turned my mourning into dancing;  
you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed  
me with joy.

Several young adults, including Humberto Tinsman of the United States and Gonzalo Mejia, Jr. of Honduras, will remind us to look for Christ’s peace, breathing new life. As a global community, we, in turn, will respond in singing, dancing, and sharing where we see Christ’s peace breathing new life. Church members and friends have been asked to submit videos of themselves dancing to “Takwaba Uwabanga Yesu!”/“There’s No One Like Jesus” from *Community of Christ Sings*.

The community will be invited to sing “Mfurahini Haleluya,” 471 in CCS, with members from Congo and “Crown Him with Many Crowns,” CCS 39, with Jan Kraybill leading. Kraybill, a Grammy nominee, is organist-in-residence at International Headquarters, Independence, Missouri, USA.

A prayer of invitation, offered by Annette Henstra of The Netherlands, will be in Dutch.

Communion (the Lord’s Supper) opens with “Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises,” CCS 656, performed by participants from Europe.

Apostle Catherine Mambwe of Zambia, focusing on John 20:21, will offer the homily. As member-submitted photos of the emblems are shown, Raraii Tama of French Polynesia will play guitar. Apostle Carlos Enrique Mejia of Honduras will invite participants to Communion.

Apostle Mareva Arnaud Tchong of Tahiti follows with a combined prayer. Organist Jan Kraybill will play while all are invited to take the Communion emblems.

Kathy Fallon of the United States will play a guitar arrangement of “For Everyone Born,” as participants share in a global passing of the peace, beginning with Apostle Bunda Chibwe offering the Prayer for Peace in Icibemba from the Temple Sanctuary. Bibek Nayak of Nepal will share in the Disciples’ Generous Response.

The community will sing “For Everyone Born,” CCS 285, followed by a Sending Forth Statement.

Kraybill concludes the service with an upbeat postlude, an abbreviated “Toccata from Organ Symphony No. 5” by Charles-Marie Widor.



# World Conference Delayed

## Fort Collins 2021 Congregation Officers



After careful consideration of global pandemic recovery trends and consultations with field leaders and health professionals, the Community of Christ First Presidency has decided to delay 2022 World Conference until 2023.

Upholding our Enduring Principles in light of the collective information we have at this given time, it was wise to delay the next World Conference until delegates from around the world can safely travel, enter the USA, meet together, and return without contributing to community spread of COVID-19 or its emerging variants.

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| Pastor                     | Stephane Gustave   |
| Counselors                 | Nancy Miller<br>Gil Pagat  |
| Administrative Assistant   | Rich Kohlman   |
| Auditors                   | Marilyn Garner<br>Bill Miner   |
| Secretary                  | Marta Remmenga   |
| Co-Webmasters              | Gary Chatburn<br>Jamie Crawford  |
| Historian                  | Max Coopwood   |
| Recorder                   | Max Coopwood   |
| Outreach Ministries        | Rick and Kay Bunch<br>(Includes Interfaith Council Representatives)                                      |
| Worship Ministries         | Tom Beck<br>Bettie Miller  |
| Pastoral Care Ministries   | Donna Clark<br>Dave Simons   |
| Stewardship Ministries     | Gary Chatburn<br>Ruth Chatburn   |
| Facilities Management Team | Gary Chatburn<br>Stephanie Gustave<br>Jon Ytell<br>Bill Miner<br>Jean Newman<br>Bob Fulton<br>Gary Jones |
| Fellowship Ministries      | Marilyn Garner   |
| Education Ministries       | Sharon Fulton  |
| Youth Ministries           | Shirley Remmenga   |

*(Cut this out to add to your phone directory.)*