

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

January 2021

"A Focus on Spirituality"

By Rick, Kay, and Sharon

It may be said that once our words about God and concepts of God, or the Holy Spirit, find their way onto the printed page, they become finite and, thus, captured. We put boundaries and limits to that which is holy. The same may be said of our spirituality and what it means to be spiritual beings. We have been created in the image of that which is holy, but on occasion, or perhaps too often, we tend to put limits on ourselves and our potential, with negative thinking and failure to strive toward our full potential.

As Christians we tend to lend credence to the idea of "doing things," and yet it was Jesus himself who offered the directive to feed, clothe, and visit. We might ask ourselves, then, what is the purpose in doing these things? Is it to bring attention to ourselves as individuals or our organizations? Do we do it because someone (in this case Jesus) told us to? Or is it because of the comfort offered in response to need and the recognition of the worth of persons? So what then is spirituality, and how does it relate to the dilemma we face in the act of doing things? How does one become spiritual? Is there some measure of success in doing so? Perhaps the answer is caught up in a single word—wholeness.

If one desired to build a strong, healthy body, the key would be to exercise. If one wanted to achieve an active, healthy mind, the directive would be the same—exercise. One would read, study, and contemplate. Science, on the other hand, tells that the two, a healthy mind and body, are interconnected. To achieve a fully healthy mind, physical exercise is a major contributing factor. We consider the whole person. The Apostle Paul said as much in his first letter to the Corinthians (I Corinthians, chapter 12) and even related that knowledge to one's spiritual gifts. In the chapter that followed, he indicated the pathway to love was a process of growth and understanding, which then involves relationships, a major factor in our spirituality. Finally, there is not a need to separate out that which is spiritual from that which is termed temporal. God has suggested that to God all things are spiritual (Doctrine and Covenants 28:9). Paul's reference to seeing through a glass darkly is a curious idea.

Might we now alter our thought a bit on spirituality and shift the paradigm just slightly. What if there is more to spirituality than the normal ideas of prayer, fasting, reading the scriptures, and meditation? In the sense of wholeness, would we not also consider our place in created earth, the environment, and our relationship to all of creation? Would we not also consider our relationships with our friends and neighbors and perhaps even those with whom we have disagreement? What if it

meant creative expression in song and prose or reading a good article or book? What if it included the enjoyment of laughter and singing and sharing a meal? What if it meant taking a pie or cookies to a friend? What if it meant actually speaking to the beggar on the street and sharing a word of cheer and even hope? Let's take Paul's reference to the "glass" and transpose that into the lens of a camera and pursue a concept of strengthening our spiritual muscles, the acts of spiritual formation.

We place our camera atop a tripod and assign meaning to each of the three legs: The first we might label a commitment to outreach in service. The second becomes residence in creation. The third might be seen as personal and spiritual growth. At the top of that tripod is our camera, which becomes the seat of community in relationships. Two important parts of that camera are the lens and film or SDHC card. The lens allows us to focus in on detail and alternately to broaden the scope to a panorama of a much broader frame. It allows us to focus on small things—the details, and the larger things—the macrocosm of humanity. The camera also, in the sense of taking pictures, allows one to capture the images of the faces of God as the people with whom we daily rub elbows—the faces of humanity; to capture images of the business of building community in relationships—those relationships with the Spirit and with the folks around us. In doing so it allows us to recognize the many facets of one's spirituality and the wholeness it brings to our relationships with the Creator and all of creation.

Wouldn't it be exciting if we could pursue these ideas in more detail? Well, help is on the way. Our pastor, Stephanie, has enlisted the help of Sharon Troyer to create a team to pursue spiritual formations. This becomes an opportunity for adventuring with God and that Spirit we call holy. It is an opportunity to flex those spiritual muscles and explore the realms of our spirituality, discovering what it might mean to build special relationships resulting in

expressions of love, the pursuit of peace, and trust. Interested? Give Sharon a shout, and let's see where this adventure might lead us.

"Lift up your eyes and fix them on the place beyond the horizon to which you are sent. Journey in trust, assured that the great and marvelous work is for this time and for all time.

"Claim your unique and sacred place within the circle of those who call upon the name of Jesus Christ. Be faithful to the spirit of the Restoration, mindful that it is a spirit of adventure, openness, and searching. Walk proudly and with a quickened step. Be a joyful people. Laugh and play and sing, embodying the hope and freedom of the gospel." Doctrine and Covenants 161:1a,b.

Congregation Business Meeting

There will be a congregation business meeting immediately following a short morning worship service on **January 17**. The purpose will be to consider the congregation budget for 2021 and to approve the formation of a Spiritual Formation Team.

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 our Zoom 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 our lives, 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 and he can check on possible solutions for you. We want to be able to include everyone in our congregational worship and activities.

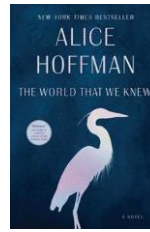
Notes from the CFO's Desk

Contribution Receipts: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and not meeting in-person, we have not issued contribution receipts for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd quarters of this year. We will, however, be mailing year-end contribution receipts for the complete 2020 year to you by February 1, 2021. If you have any questions before then about your contributions, please contact Ruth Chatburn (970) 833-0570 so she can assist you.

Contributions during the Continued Closure of Our Facilities: Contributions have remained fairly stable with a slight dropping off in contributions the last couple of months. We are doing our best to minimize as much expense as possible and remain within our budgets. We want to thank everyone for their continued financial support and let you know that we are very appreciative of the funds that are received each month. Please continue to send your offerings and contributions to Ruth and Gary Chatburn, congregation financial officers, so that your "Disciples' Generous Response" can be processed into the accounts that you designate.

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



Date: January 21

Time: 2:00 p.m. on ZOOM

Book: *The World That We Knew* by Alice Hoffman

We have a book kit from the library that contains 10 copies of this book. If you would like to borrow one of these books, please contact Donna Clark and arrange to pick it up.

January Birthdays



Glenn Smith	01/04
Lillian Wallace	01/08
Anthony Riley	01/09
Greyson Garner	01/11
Stephanie Gustave	01/15
Gavin Crawford	01/18
David Garner	01/18
Nancy Mendenhall	01/19
Sharon Fulton	01/19
Paul Urioste	01/25
Bob Fulton	01/29
Jessica Julch	01/29
Dahlia Bridwell	01/30

Priesthood Meeting

There will be a priesthood meeting on Monday, January 4, at 6:00 p.m. via ZOOM. Connection instructions will be sent prior to the meeting.



Speakers, Planners, Keyboard, Greeters, and Nursery

(All on ZOOM for January)

Speakers

- ❖ Jan. 3: Shirley Remmenga
- ❖ Jan. 10: No ZOOM Service
- ❖ Jan. 17: Business Meeting
- ❖ Jan. 24: Sharing Service
- ❖ Jan. 31: Debbie Jones

Planners

- ❖ Jan. 3: Donna Clark and Shirley Remmenga
- ❖ Jan. 10: No Service
- ❖ Jan. 17: Donna Clark Team
- ❖ Jan. 24: Deb Friesz and Shirley Remmenga
- ❖ Jan. 31: Kay Bunch

January Calendar



Check the website:

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

- Jan. 1 **NEW YEARS DAY!**
- Jan. 3: 10:30 a.m. ZOOM Worship Service
Communion Sunday
First-Sunday Giving
- Jan. 4: 6:00 p.m. Priesthood Meeting via ZOOM**
- Jan. 6: 6:00 p.m. ZOOM Leadership Council Meeting
- Jan. 10: 10:30 a.m. No ZOOM Worship
Second-Sunday Offering
No Second-Sunday Social
- Jan. 17: 10:30 a.m. ZOOM Worship Service and Business Meeting
(Communicator items due)
- Jan. 21: 2:00 p.m. Novel Bunch on ZOOM
- Jan. 24: 10:30 a.m. ZOOM Worship Service

Hello Interfaith Friends,



United Way of Larimer County has just announced its Cameron Peak Fire Response Fund. United Way of Larimer County has been asked by

County officials, Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD), and partner agencies to launch a fund for private donations for those most affected by the fire. There will be short-term and long-term impacts—unmet needs may not surface for six months. Donations are tax deductible and will be distributed to affected community members through the Cameron Peak Fire Long-Term Recovery Group.

Click here to donate or learn more.

<https://fortcollinsinterfaith.us17.list-manage.com/track/click?u=6b26634026ed2fe7fa47557ec&id=3488e72c26&e=72c05b4c7f>

Food Bank of Larimer County



Looking to help make a difference in the lives of your friends, families, and neighbors? Food Bank of Larimer County is responding to the increased hunger needs

during the COVID-19 pandemic and is in need of volunteers to help them do so.

The Food Bank is currently seeking Food Share Assistants in Fort Collins and Loveland as well as Warehouse Assistants in Loveland. Please visit our volunteer page at <https://foodbanklarimer.org/volunteer/> to learn more. Feel free to contact Kimberly, Matt, or Tasha at 970-829-0157 or volunteerinfo@foodbanklarimer.org with any questions.

Happy New Year!

