



# FORT COLLINS MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

300 E. Oak Street, Ft. Collins, CO 80524

Cell: 970-412-7510 Web: [www.fcmennonite.org](http://www.fcmennonite.org)

Pastor: Steve Ramer Email: [stevemramer@yahoo.com](mailto:stevemramer@yahoo.com)

Worship 10:00 AM

*We are all ministers in this fellowship*



**DEC. 6, 2015**

## OUR VALUES

- **Commitment and perseverance.** As the body of Christ, we have a commitment to the community through difficult times as well as good times.
- **Faith-filled, grateful attitude.** In God's economy, we have enough resources: enough finances, enough love and nurture, enough volunteers, enough time. Be grateful while also working to grow resources.
- **Every person in this fellowship is a minister.** Every person has a gift and every person should be given an opportunity to give that gift. We are the body of Christ.
- **Spirituality and social justice are integrally interwoven.** We believe and act on this as we emulate the life of Christ, interpret the Scriptures, and meet the spiritual needs of our community. We are unapologetic about being a Christian community that values spirituality; AND we are unapologetic about being a justice and peace community; AND we are unwavering that these are inextricably entwined, and even synergistic.

**We are an open and affirming congregation.**



## HOPE IS BORN IN DARKNESS

This Advent we turn our focus to Old Testament scriptures that anticipate the birth of a Messiah. We examine the longing, anticipation, waiting, fear, pain, hope, and joy that can all lead to new birth. We will explore the feelings that often occur in the darkness before the birth of hope for the world and in each of us.

### 1. GATHERING

- Prelude
- Centering Silence
- Call to Worship

We come seeking Jesus, the Light of the world!

**Shine in our hearts Lord Jesus!**

We believe in the strength of God to illuminate dark places.

**The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness shall not overcome it.**

Lord, in this hour of worship, kindle in us the light of your love.

**Let your light shine through us, now and forever.**

- Congregational Singing
- Welcome & Passing the Peace of Christ:  
**Leader:** May the peace of Christ be with you.  
**People:** And also with you.  
**Leader:** Let us offer one another signs of peace, reconciliation, and love.



### 2. HEARING GOD'S WORD



- Children's Story
- Scripture: Selections from Isaiah 9 and 59
- Sermon: "The Charity of Night"  
Consider the contrasting metaphors of light and darkness: Christmas carols that depict the night of Christ's birth as dark, clear, silent and glorious and Advent promises of light coming to illuminate the darkness.

It seems God comes to us in the form of new birth in the darkest of times!

### 3. RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

- Congregational Singing
- Reflections and Discussion
- Joys and Concerns
- Offering & Music
- Family Circle & Sending



### VISITORS

Please complete a visitors' card (available from the greeter or on the back information table) and place it in the offering basket or return it to the greeter.

### PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS

Steve's regular office hours are Wednesdays, from 2-6 pm and by appointment. You can contact him at: 412-7510 or [stevemramer@yahoo.com](mailto:stevemramer@yahoo.com)

### PRAYER REQUESTS

Let us know your requests during the "joys and concerns" time of worship, or write them on prayer cards (available in the back of the church) and place them in the offering basket.

If a concern arises during the week or if you would like someone to personally pray with you, Steve would welcome hearing from you: (970) 412-7510.

**Birthdays, prayers, announcements, and more quotes on back**

## DECEMBER PRAYERS FOR FCMF FAMILIES

- David and Jean Lehman
- Russ McCahan
- Lynette and Max McGowan
- Sage Mijares
- Stan and Myrna Miller & family

## WEEKLY PRAYER REQUESTS



Pray for Johanna and her family as they grieve the loss of her mother; for Kristen as she prepares for her daughter's holiday visit and deals with tensions at home; for a **guest's** daughter as she begins her internship in Ecuador; for Stacey as she begins patient rehab and for her son Ashton who is struggling with drug and alcohol use; for Lynette's husband Max in Minnesota as he transitions his mom back home; for Angela and her very good friend Michelle who is suffering with so many serious health issues; and for Martha as she visits her mom in California and tries to get her financial aid.

*"Because this Word is a hidden Word it comes in the darkness of the night. To enter this darkness put away all images and likenesses. In stillness and peace in this unknowing knowledge God speaks in the soul and becomes fully expressed there."*  
— Meister Eckhart

*"We must believe that it is darkest before the dawn of a beautiful new world. We will see it when we believe it."* — Saul Alinsky

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- **Week 1:** Jude Krall (12/03), Angela White (12/03), Daniel Scott (12/11)
- **Week 2:** Sena Aitchedji (12/18)
- **Week 3:** Michael Scott (12/21)
- **Week 4:** Jim Carney (12/27)

## ONGOING EVENTS

- **Potlucks:** Every Wednesday at 6:00 pm. Enter by north door.
- **Mennopints:** Second Friday of each month.
- **Elders Meeting:** To be announced
- **Womynfolk Group:** First Monday of each month. Contact Annie: (970) 294-2646 (c)

## CALENDAR

### Refer to Announcements for details



- Dec. 13: Blessing Way
- Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Service
- Dec. 27-Jan. 3: FFH Hosting

*"This birth takes place in darkness. And not only is the Son of the heavenly Creator born in this darkness, but you too are born there as a child of the same heavenly Creator and none other."* — Meister Eckhart

*"Darkness is the only path to light. It is not our wonderful gifts that make us closer to God: it's using our garbage to transform ourselves. This is the key that unlocks the door that opens to God."* — Yehuda Berg

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



**BLESSING WAY TODAY.** Christmas is coming ... and so is Allison and Isaiah's first child (Jan. 2016). To celebrate the occasion, we are having a Baby Shower/Blessing Way after service today for the soon-to-be parents. Join us for poems, songs, stories, and plenty of sweet and savory goodies!

**FFH NEEDS YOU!** Our post-Christmas FFH hosting is coming up sooner than you think (**Dec. 27-Jan3**). Please consider sharing your presence with FFH families by signing up for any of the duties available. Here's the link to Sign-In Genius: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f054faba82ea5fc1-ffhhosting2>

**COOP NEEDS YOU!** Did you see the sign on their front door announcing shorter hours due to financial difficulty? The Fort Collins Food Coop has been a beacon of hope in the Ft. Collins food scene for more than 30 years, reminding us that where we get our food matters! Don't let that beacon go out. If you're not a member of Fort Collins Food Co-Op, consider joining, and if you're already a member, sign the pledge to spend more of your food dollars there. The Co-Op has lots of members, but too many don't shop there. If these absentee members would just spend \$50-\$150 of their existing food budget at the store each month (that's only \$11.63-\$34.90 a week), it would make a TREMENDOUS difference! Don't be a member in name only. Step up to the plate and make a difference.

**FOCO CAFÉ ROCKS!** In its first year, FoCo Cafe served 2,016 meals! And no wonder – people love this place. FoCo was also fortunate to receive generous financial donations from various funding organizations and to receive donations through King Soopers Neighborhood Reward Program. Not to mention receiving a commercial food processor!

**INTERNATIONAL NATIVITIES.** Global Village Museum presents Nativities Around the World. Multiple renditions of over 250 Nativities from countries, such as Nigeria, Peru, France, and Nepal are on display November 6, 2015 through January 23, 2016. The Museum is located in Old Town at 200 West Mountain Avenue and open **Tuesday through Saturday 11 am to 5 pm** (970-221-4600).



## WORSHIP ROTATIONS

	Dec. 13	Dec. 20	Dec. 24	Dec. 31
<b>Greeter</b>	Isaiah	Keith		Liz
<b>Worship leader</b>	Allison	Katie		Steve
<b>Music</b>	Geoff	Cathy		Mary Beth
<b>Story</b>	Cathy	Rachel		Steve
<b>Scripture</b>	Miranda	Annie		Kristen
<b>Message</b>	Steve	Steve		OPEN
<b>Communion Bread</b>	NA	NA		NA
<b>Snacks &amp; Coffee</b>	Isaiah & Allison	Wes & Angela		Carla & Jeff

### Bulletin Announcements:

Please submit any announcements by Thursday evening to Martha Roden at: [martharoden@gmail.com](mailto:martharoden@gmail.com)

### Worship Rotations:

When a rotation assignment does not work for you, please alert Steve and worship leaders in a timely fashion.

