



## 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. 20, 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

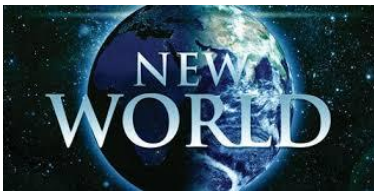
- Prelude
- Centering Silence
- Call to Worship: See Insert
- Congregational Singing
- Welcome & Passing the Peace of Christ:  
**Leader:** May the peace of Christ be with you.  
**People:** And also with you.  
**Leader:** Let us offer one another signs of peace, reconciliation, and love.



#### 2. HEARING GOD'S WORD

- Children's Story
- Scripture: Isaiah 35:1-10
- Sermon: "Ode to Joy"

Isaiah's vision encourages us to be glad, rejoice and sing for joy!



A new world is not only possible but is coming! "The Birth" of the long awaited Messiah does not only happen inside of us, but in the communities around us as justice for all creation is also born!

New life comes to us to renew our own hearts and to those with whom we share God's creation.

*"Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy." — Isaiah 35:5-6*

#### 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.

***Please read the back for birthdays, prayers, announcements, and more quotes!***

## 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 Brad, Johanna, and their family as they grieve the loss of Johanna's mother; for Kristin and Marshall as they deal with drug and alcohol issues with Marshall's ex; for peace and calm for Mary Beth to help with her high blood pressure; for Stacey as she enters treatment and for her family and children over the holidays; for financial assistance and a new furnace

for Martha's mother; for all those dealing with the anxiety and depression during the holidays; and for the light of hope during this dark time of year.

*"Let the arid land breathe free, sweet respiration, rain! Come blind, come deaf - sit at the undreamed banquet of sound and sense! Loosen the tongue to praise worth, to song! Speed our homecoming! The way like a royal tapestry, we ransomed, we exiles leaping, dancing for joy!" —Daniel Berrigan*

## 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. 24: Christmas Eve Service
- Dec. 27-Jan. 3: FFH Hosting

*"For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations." — Isaiah 61: 11*



*"In this birth you will discover all blessing. But neglect this birth and you neglect all blessing. Tend only to this birth in you and you will find there all goodness and all consolation, all delight, all being and all truth." — Meister Eckhart*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**THANK YOU!** And now a heartfelt note from Allison and Isiah Goertz:

*"Wow! What a caring community we find ourselves in here at FCMF. Thank you, thank you for making us feel so special and loved. This is one lucky baby to already be so anticipated with gladness by all of you. Thank you for celebrating with us, praying for us, and donating to both MCC and for our cloth diapers. We are overwhelmed with gratefulness and feel just a little more confident bringing this baby into a world where s/he already has such a loving community waiting.*

**TIS THE SEASON.** This is the season of giving, so please consider sharing some special holiday time with families in our community who will not have the opportunity to celebrate Christmas in their own home this year. **We are hosting FFH families Dec. 27 to Jan. 2 and we still in need of volunteers for Saturday night's meal and overnight stays on Tues. (12/29) and Wed. (12/30).**

Many thanks to those of you who have already jumped on board and here is the signup link for those of you who have not yet volunteered: [www.SignUpGenius.com/go/20F054FABA82EA5FC1-ffhosting2](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/20F054FABA82EA5FC1-ffhosting2)



**FOOD CO-OP NEEDS YOUR HELP.** Did you know that out of 2,400 Food Co-Op Member-Owners, only 182 spend more than \$1,000 a year at the Food Co-op (less than \$84 per month or \$22 per week)!

If you're already a member, the Food Co-Op needs you to spend a larger portion of your weekly food budget at the Co-Op. And if you're not a member, please consider becoming one. Spending \$50 per month of your existing food budget at the Co-Op comes to little more than \$11.00 per week, and spending \$150 per month comes to less than \$35.00 per week. It's worth it. The Food Co-Op has been here for 44 years — don't let this be its final year. The Food Co-op cannot survive without you!

**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. 20	Dec. 24 6:30 pm	Dec. 27	Jan 3
<b>Greeter</b>	Keith		Martha	Lynette
<b>Worship leader</b>	Allison		Lynette	Mary
<b>Music</b>	Stan		Geoff	Cathy & Saja
<b>Story</b>	Martha		OPEN	OPEN
<b>Scripture</b>	Allison		Kristen	Rachel
<b>Message</b>	Steve		Lynette	Mary
<b>Communion Bread</b>	NA		NA	Jeff & Carla
<b>Snacks &amp; Coffee</b>	Brad & Johanna		Carla & Jeff	Annie

### 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.

