



FORT COLLINS MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

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

Cell: 970-412-7510 Web: www.fcmennonite.org

Pastor: Steve Ramer Email: 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
- 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 49:1-31 (selected verses), 61:1-3
- Sermon: "Only Those Who Weep Need Comfort"



On this second Sunday of Advent, some of us may feel overwhelmed by the violence and injustice we see in today's world – terrorists in Paris and the Middle East; murderers in health clinics and schools; war and climate change wherever we look. It seems a grim reality, but according to Isaiah there is good news! A voice cries out to us in our time

of loneliness, fear, anxiety, and despair: "Comfort, comfort – you are My People" says the Creator and Giver of life, love and hope.

"...but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint." — Isaiah 40:31

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

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 an abundant consciousness that helps us put aside our fears; for the Syrian refugees and those countries (especially our own) struggling to remain open to them; for religious leaders in our nation to give moral leadership on this issue; for all those without homes; for peace in Nigeria; for Martha as she visits her mom; for home repair assistance for Martha's mom; and for Johanna and her family as her mother's cancer advances.

"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

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. 12: Pancake Breakfast
- Dec. 12: MDS Meeting
- Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Service

"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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEXT WOMYFOLK GATHERING. Women, come join our gathering as we continue our tradition of inspired, wise-womyn sharing and storytelling. We'll stir the pot with thoughts and tales of surrender, and a book study of Cynthia Bourgeault. We meet at Ruth's house at **6:30 pm on Mon., Dec. 7.** For directions, call Ruth at: (970) 222-8303



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, promoting organic food and local vendors, and 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 so we can keep this community and environmentally-minded, people-run organization in business. And if you're already a member, sign the pledge in the store and do your part 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. Please tell your friends!

PANCAKE BREAKFAST COMING UP! Fundraiser breakfast for Kids at Heart/Fundango is coming up on **Sat. Dec. 12.** This is a respite program for foster/adoptive/kinship families. Let Mary Beth know if you'd like some tickets.

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).

MENNONITE DISASTER SERVICE COLORADO. Barry Cox, a member of Boulder Mennonite, is coordinating MDS projects (from Denver north and east). If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Barry at: (303) 884-1913 or barry@skyrun.com. Also, MDS invites all those interested in MDS projects to attend the Annual 2016 MDS Planning meeting at Mountain Community Mennonite Church in Palmer Lake, CO **on Sat., Dec. 12 from 11 am to 1 pm.** Lunch will be served. Come with ideas, questions and concerns. We are reorganizing our efforts after three major Colorado Disasters in the last two years. RSVP to Paul Johnson at: (720) 880-8773 .

WORSHIP ROTATIONS

	Dec. 6	Dec. 13	Dec. 20	Dec. 24
Greeter	Rachel	Allison/Isaiah	Keith	
Worship leader	Lynette	Allison	Katie	
Music	Cathy & Saja	Geoff	Cathy	
Story	OPEN	Cathy	Rachel	
Scripture	Liz	Miranda	Annie	
Message	Steve	OPEN	Steve	
Communion Bread	Coldrens	NA	NA	
Snacks & Coffee	Mary	Isaiah & Allison	Wes & Angela	

Bulletin Announcements:

Please submit any announcements by Thursday evening to Martha Roden at: martharoden@gmail.com

Worship Rotations:

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

