



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



SEPTEMBER 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.

SEASON OF THE CHURCH: LIFE TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY

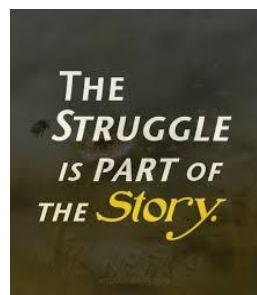
Since the dawn of time, people have sought out each other to form communities. Truly, it is in community that we become part of something greater than ourselves ... and experience God. Community is indeed the antidote for alienation from one another as well as from the Divine Creator!

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. (Stand and shake hands or hug.)

2. HEARING GOD'S WORD

- Children's Story
- Scripture: Mark 14:3-8, Mark 10:17- 20
- Sermon: "Things I Wish were NOT in the Bible – Part 2: Congratulate the Poor and Damn the Rich!" (Steve)



Jesus tells us there is more to life than meets the eye ... what God ultimately values is often the inverse of what we humans value. Poverty and difficulties can lead us to greater interdependence with one another and greater dependence upon God. By embracing our struggles and pain we can better embrace those who are poorer than we are. This ability to transcend ourselves and feel compassion for others is the foundations for building true community here on earth!

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.

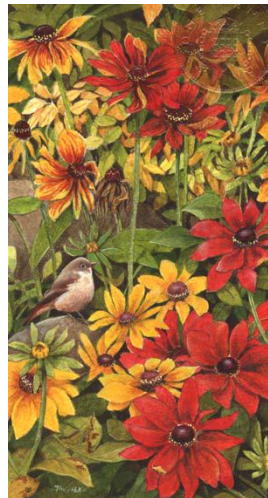
Birthdays, prayers, announcements, and more quotes on back

SEPTEMBER PRAYERS FOR FCMF FAMILIES

- Annie and Mark Scott & family
- Maurice Shenk
- Kristen Smith
- Ruth Wallick
- Wes and Angela White & family



SEPTEMBER PRAYERS FOR FCMF FAMILIES



- Saja Butler
- Elia and Jim Carney
- Mary and Cade Coldren & family
- Carla Conrardy and Jeff Kearns
- Kevin and Julia Cross

Pray for Mary as she settles her mom into her new home in Ft Collins and tries to balance her time and energy; for all those working to make our desired church renovations a reality; for Denise, Sanders, Chenu, and Sena as they prepare for Denise's new posting in Belgium; for Martha's sister Heather as she struggles to pay down her debts, gain financial stability, and find work that does not involve so much travel; and for all those in our fellowship

who continue to look for housing and work.

"Without struggle, there is no progress". – Frederick Douglass

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- **Week 1:** Denise Bouthillier (09/01)
- **Week 2:** Gabi Ramer (09/08)
- **Week 3:** Beth Helmers (09/19)
- **Week 4:** Dave Freeman (09/21)

ONGOING EVENTS (ONCE A MONTH)

- **Potlucks:** Resumes on Wednesday, Sept. 16!
- **Mennopints:** Resumes on Friday, Sept. 16!
- **Elders Meeting:** To be announced
- **Womynfolk Group:** Resumes on Monday, Oct. 4. Contact Annie: (970) 294-2646 (c)

CALENDAR



Refer to Announcements for details

- Sept. 20-27: Host FFH Families
- Oct. 9-11: Annual Retreat

"All life demands struggle. Those who have everything given to them become lazy, selfish, and insensitive to the real values of life. The very striving and hard work that we so constantly try to avoid is the major building block in the person we are today." – Pope Paul VI

"The most beautiful people we have known are those who have known defeat, known suffering, known struggle, known loss, and have found their way out of those depths."

– Elisabeth Kubler-Ross

ANNOUNCEMENTS

STILL NEED VOLUNTEERS. We start hosting four FFH families (almost 20 people) today! If you can find the time, we'd still appreciate help with dinner preparation and overnight stays (and some greeting). See Kevin's recent email for details. Please sign up for empty slots as the spirit moves you by visiting: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f054faba82ea5fc1-ffhhosting>



REGISTER TODAY! Information Sheets and Registration Forms are now available for our Annual Retreat – *"Acornology: We All Have to Crack Some Time!"* The Retreat takes place on **October 9 (evening), 10, and 11** at Sky Ranch, up in the mountains near Pingree Park. Fill out the registration form to indicate the days you want to attend and the meals you'll need. Please don't let costs stop you – *we have plenty of scholarships!* Turn in your Registration Forms and checks to Steve's box. **Deadline is Sept. 27** (though we can accommodate latecomers until **Oct. 4**).

Our retreat theme is centered around the lowly acorn – how it must let go of the branch, fall to the ground, break open, and die to the old to become a majestic oak tree. We've all experienced events in our lives where we felt like an acorn: holding on for dear life, or letting go, or dying to our old lives and starting over. This retreat gives us an opportunity to share our experiences through art, poetry, music and more! Consider reviewing the Materials List at church to see if there's anything you can bring to the retreat.

MCC BORDERLANDS LEARNING TOUR 2015. Come participate in a learning tour to bring awareness about the increasing migrant deaths, militarization, and effects on sister communities by the border wall along the Mexico/U.S. Borderlands. You'll increase your understanding of the social, economic, political and theological significance of migration in border communities. The tour is **Oct. 28-Nov. 4**, leaving from Tucson, AZ. For details, contact Saulo Padilla, at: saulopadilla@mcc.org or visit: mcc.org/borderlands-tour

LEAVE OR STAY? Many Syrian families face that question as international humanitarian assistance dwindles and the patchwork of resources they used to rely on wears thin. Your gift of money helps **Mennonite Central Committee** provide food, water, rent assistance and winter supplies so families who decide to stay can survive the cold weather ahead. Please give online at mcc.org/syria-iraq; by phone at 1-888-563-4676; or by check, sent to MCC U.S., P.O. Box 500, Akron, PA 17501. Thank you!

WORSHIP ROTATIONS

| | Sept. 20 | Sept. 27 | Oct. 4 | Oct. 11 |
|----------------------------|----------|--------------|-----------------|---|
| Greeter | Eliza | OPEN | Rachel | Annual Retreat at Sky Ranch! |
| Worship leader | Katie | OPEN | Allison | |
| Music | Geoff | Mary Beth | Cathy & Saja | |
| Story | Martha | Rachel | Dave | |
| Scripture | Mark | Annie | Liz | |
| Message | Steve | Steve | World Communion | |
| Communion Bread | NA | NA | Coldrens | |
| Snacks & Coffee | Greeters | Wes & Angela | Mary | |

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.

