



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 27, 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.

THE HARD SAYINGS OF JESUS

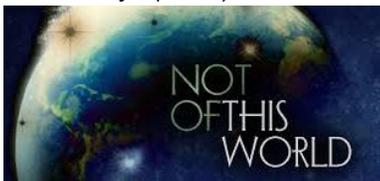
Jesus said many perplexing things in the Gospels. Even his disciples were known to exclaim, "This is a hard saying; who can hear it?" If you find some of the words of Jesus hard to believe, difficult to understand, or demanding to follow, you're in good company! This fall, from now until Advent, we will consider the "hard sayings" of Jesus, and try to come to a better understanding of their meaning.

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: John 18:31-40
- Sermon: "Things I Wish were NOT in the Bible – Part 3: Banditos of the Domination System or God's Cosmic Rule is a Just Community!" (Steve)



What does Jesus mean by, "My Kingdom is not of this world"? Does he mean we should focus only on our Heavenly rewards and destination? Should we not concern ourselves with the

quality of life on earth for the poor, the environment, or the elimination of any earthly suffering? Some use this passage to dissuade Christians from getting involved in working for justice. We need to examine this passage more closely!

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



Please pray for David Bryant, a guest, as he and his wife struggle to find a home and deal with health issues; for Rachel's student as he and his family labor with material needs; for Martha's sister Heather as she strives to get out of debt and find financial security; for Russ's young friends Shawn and David who struggle with MS and lymphoma; for Johanna as she deals with the death of her grandmother; and for all the families in FFH who move to a new church and seek permanent homes.

"To lose yourself in righteous service to others can lift your sights and get your mind off personal problems, or at least put them in proper focus." — Ezra Taft Benson

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. 27-Oct. 4: Deadline for Retreat Registration and Materials
- Oct. 9-11: Annual Retreat

"Most Christian 'believers tend to echo the cultural prejudices and worldviews of the dominant group in their country, with only a minority revealing any real transformation of attitudes or consciousness. It has been true of slavery and racism, classism and consumerism and issues of immigration and health care for the poor." — Richard Rohr

"You want to know the difference between a master and a beginner? The master has failed more times than the beginner has ever tried." — Yoda

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FFH ROCKS! We did it — our volunteers managed to "hold down the fort" with four families and sometimes more than 10 children! Thank you to all who helped make it another successful FFH Hosting week!



REGISTER NOW! Registration forms are due Sunday, Sept. 27. Please look over the Materials List we sent out (and on the table at the back of the church) to see if you can bring any of the necessary art supplies with you. Our theme this year is - *"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.

CROP HUNGER WALK. The Walk is next Sunday and it's time to help a walker or become one. In FY 2014 Church World Service (CWS) spent over \$45,000,000 to aid refugees around the world. This local walk contributes 25% of its proceeds to the Food Bank for Larimer County; over \$3,300 was raised last year (15,000 meals). CWS also sponsors world-wide, hand-up projects to solve long-term hunger issues. For details, contact Bob Vangermeersch at: **223-0493** or bobvangermeersch@aol.com.

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. 27	Oct. 4	Oct. 11	Oct. 18
Greeter	OPEN	Rachel	Annual Retreat at Sky Ranch!	Keith
Worship leader	Kristen	Allison		Annie
Music	Mary Beth	Cathy & Saja		Stan
Story	Rachel	Dave		Martha
Scripture	Annie	Liz		Allison
Message	Steve	World Communion		Steve
Communion Bread	NA	Coldrens		NA
Snacks & Coffee	Wes & Angela	Mary		Greeters

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.

