



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

JANUARY 3, 2016



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 back page, under "Calendar")
- 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 58: 6-10, Matthew 7:1-5
- Sermon: "Human ... and Kind" (Eliza)



Eliza will share an article by George Monbiot, a British journalist who describes fascinating new lines of research about human beings. The research suggests we are good people, tolerating bad things. How did we get to this point, and what can we as Mennonites and Christians, do about it?

"We are not inherently inclined towards destruction, waste and killing, any more than we are inherently inclined towards angelic feats of kindness and love. Our social brain is capable of normalizing either tendency. It is not human nature we need to change, but the norms and institutions that play upon it."
— George Monbiot

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.

Pastor Steve and his family are gone through January 4. If a concern arises and you would like someone to talk to or personally pray with you, please contact Annie, Mary, or Russ.

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

JANUARY PRAYERS FOR FCMF FAMILIES

- Katie and Keith Price-Foster & family
- Steve Ramer and Kathy Egan & family
- Martha Roden and David Braley
- Liz and Steve Ruhl
- Annie and Mark Scot & family

WEEKLY PRAYER REQUESTS

Mennonite Mission Network: Praise God for the Toba/Qom radio station that was inaugurated last month in the Argentine Chaco. Pray that the Christian programming will touch many lives through this ministry.

FCMF: Pray for safety and good times for those on the road; for those without homes in the cold weather; for Russ and his concerns; for the mother of Rachel's student who mourns her death; for Martha's mom, still looking for financial assistance for home repairs; and for all who seek God's help and comfort.



"There is no exercise better for the heart than reaching down and lifting people up."
— John Holmes

"We must seek the loving-kindness of God in all the breadth and open-air of common life."
— George A. Smith

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- **Week 4:** Taka Ito (1/27), Jonathan Miller (1/27), Wes White (1/28), Chenu Atichedji (1/30)
- **Week 5:** Mary Coldren (1/31)

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

Mon., Jan 4 – Women's Group at Ruth's house



"O God of new beginnings, who brings light out of night's darkness and fresh green out of the hard winter earth, there is barren land between us as people and as nations this day, there are empty stretches of soul within us. Give us eyes to see new dawns of promise. Give us ears to hear fresh soundings of birth."
— John Philip Newell, *Celtic Treasure: Daily Scripture and Prayer*

ANNOUNCEMENTS



AMAZING STAY! During some of the coldest weather we've experienced so far, our FFH families were able to stay warm and safe in our building. The Day Center gave them a warm refuge be during the day and we provided them food, fellowship, and sleeping accommodations each evening. Thank you, all who helped!

HOMELESS GEAR IS A MANAGING PARTNER. Did you know that Homeless Gear is now a managing partner of the Sister Mary Alice Murphy Center for Hope? Other partners include Bohemian Foundation, Catholic Charities, Neighbor to Neighbor, and Summit Stone Health Partners. Together with dozens of other agencies, they will operate from the Murphy Center to carry out the mission of serving those who are homeless and at risk of becoming homeless.

ONE VILLAGE ONE FAMILY. Here in Fort Collins, the One Village One Family (OVOF) program brings together "villages" of volunteers, churches, civic groups, nonprofits, businesses, and community leaders to empower homeless families so they regain stability, secure permanent housing, and achieve self-sufficiency. To date, OVOF has paired 13 "villages" with 10 families (including 28 children) to help them escape homelessness and secure stable housing

FOOD CO-OP STILL NEEDS YOUR HELP. The Co-Op still needs you to step up to the plate and spend a little more of your current food budget at their store so they can keep their doors open. Spending \$50 per month of your existing food budget at the Co-Op comes to little more than \$11 per week, and spending \$150 per month comes to less than \$35 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

	Jan. 3	Jan. 10	Jan. 17	Jan. 24
Greeter	OPEN	Johanna/Brad	Eliza	Brad
Worship leader	Mary	Kristen	Brad	Katie
Music	OPEN	Geoff	Stan	Mary Beth
Story	OPEN	Mary	Martha	Rachel
Scripture	Rachel	Ethan	Mark	Annie
Message	Eliza	Steve	Steve – MLK Jr. Day	OPEN
Communion Bread	NA	Jeff & Carla	NA	NA
Snacks & Coffee	Annie	Liz	Lynette, Rachel, Eliza	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, worship leaders, and Martha in a timely fashion.

