October 25, 2026

Elder Dedication Ceremony: "What's An Elder?"

FORT COLLINS MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

Worship: 10:00 AM **Pastor:** Steve Ramer **Cell:** 970-412-7510

SEASON OF PENTECOST

Romans 8:2 A new power is in operation. The Spirit of life in Christ, like a strong wind, has magnificently cleared the air, freeing you from a fated lifetime of brutal tyranny at the hands of sin and death. (The Message)

1. GATHERING

Musical Prelude (Leanna)

Call to Worship (Steve)

Call: "Those who seek to be first will end up last, those willing to be last will end up first."

Response: Lord help me to be a servant to others.

Call: Jesus also said he "would suffer rejection, humiliation, torture and death."

Response: Lord give us the courage to follow you even through tough times.

Call: Jesus also said to them, "You know that most leaders seek wealth, fame and power."

Response: Lord help us to seek true greatness through servant leadership.

Call: "After all the son of Adam didn't come to be served, but to serve, even to give his life to rescue others."

Response: Lord help us commit our lives to serve you by serving others

"The first responsibility of a leader is to define reality. The last is to say thank you. In between, the leader is a servant."
— Max de Pree

Opening Prayer (Steve)

Congregational Singing (Cathy)

Welcome and Passing of the Peace

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

Scriptures: From Deuteronomy, Matthew, and Timothy

Deuteronomy 21:18 If someone has a stubborn and rebellious child who will not obey either father or mother, who does not heed their discipline, 19 then both father and mother shall take hold of the child and bring them to the elders... 20 They shall say to the elders of the town, 'This child of ours is stubborn and rebellious and will not obey us...'

Matthew 16:21 From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders... and be killed, and on the third day be raised.

1 Timothy 5:17 Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor,* especially those who labor in preaching and teaching; 18for the scripture says, 'You shall not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain', and, 'The laborer deserves to be paid.'

Sermon: "What's An Elder?"

FCMF has a lay leadership board, the Board of Elders, which is composed of three elders. Elders are the "servant leaders," providing vision and keeping FCMF true to its core values. The Elders enable members of the congregation to take on projects they are passionate about in our church, in the community, and in the world.

Dedication of Elder Nancy

All: We are grateful, Oh God!

Leader: Grateful that you have placed upon Nancy's heart the willingness to serve and lead your people.

Congregation: Give her joy in this task as well as patience, hope and perseverance in the journey.

Leader: We gather today as inheritors of a tradition in which all are called to minister and where each and everyone has a key role to play in being church.

Congregation: Move among us Holy Spirit so that we may honor her service. Help us to be quick to listen and slow to criticize. Help us oh Spirit of Unity to seek first to support rather than to complain and to be eager with an encouraging word and a helping hand.

Leader: God you have given each one of us a sacred work to do as we become your people, a collection of misfits we call church, a concrete expression of your love in the world.

All: In all that we do, oh God, may it lead to unity, express hope and be done only and always in love!

3. Responding to God's Word

Congregational Singing (Cathy)

Joys and Concerns

Offering & Music (Leanna)

Sending (Steve)

Leader: According to our Values Statement,

People: Every person in this fellowship is a minister.

Leader: Every person has a gift and every person should be given an opportunity to give that gift.

People: We are the body Christ!

Leader: Go and be Christ's body here on earth!

"Radical servanthood challenges us, while attempting persistently to overcome poverty, hunger, illness, and any other form of human misery, to reveal the gentle presence of our compassionate God in the midst of our broken world."
— Henri Nouwen

"Service which is rendered without joy helps neither the servant nor the served. But all other pleasures and possessions pale into nothingness before service which is rendered in a spirit of joy."
— Mahatma Gandhi