September 6, 2026

"Contentious Objectors: Preemptive Love Always Trumps War!"

FORT COLLINS MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

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

Worship: 10:00 AM **Pastor:** Steve Ramer **Office:** (970) 658-2623 **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

Call to Worship (Steve): #921

All: True evangelical faith cannot lie dormant, but spreads itself out in all kinds of righteousness and fruits of love.

P: it dies to flesh and blood;
L: it destroys all forbidden lusts and desires;
P: it seeks, serves, and fears God in its inmost soul;
L: it clothes the naked;
P: it feeds the hungry;
L: it comforts the sorrowful;
P: it shelters the destitute;
L: it aids and consoles the sad;
P: it does good to those who do it harm;
L: it serves those who harm it;
P: it prays for those who persecute it;
L: it teaches, admonishes, and judges us with the Word of God;
P: it seeks those who are lost;
L: it binds up what is wounded;
P: it heals the sick;
L: it saves what is strong;
P: it becomes all things to all people.

All: The persecution, suffering, and anguish that come to it for the sake of the truth of Christ have become a glorious joy and comfort to it.

Opening Prayer (Steve)

Congregational Singing (Cathy)

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted." — Aesop

"Love and kindness are never wasted. They always make a difference. They bless the one who receives them, and they bless you, the giver." — Barbara De Angelis

Welcome and Passing of the Peace

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.
People: And also, with you.
All: Let us offer one another signs of peace, reconciliation, and love.

"Guard well within yourself that treasure, kindness. Know how to give without hesitation, how to lose without regret, how to acquire without meanness."
— George Sand

2. Hearing God's Word

Scriptures: Matthew 5:38-48

"As you know, we once were told, 'An eye for an eye' and 'a tooth for a tooth.' But I tell you: Do not react violently against the one who is evil: when anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn and let them slap you on the other as well. When anyone wants to sue you for your shirt, give them your coat along with it. Further if anyone conscripts you for one mile, go with them an additional mile. Give to everyone who begs from you…

As you know, we once were told, 'You are to love your neighbor' and 'hate your enemy.' But I'm telling you to 'love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. Then you will become children of God… Because if you love only those who love you back, how is that anything out of the ordinary? Even the worst of sinners can do that! And if you only embrace joyfully your brothers and sisters, how is that exceptional? Even folks who do not claim to believe in God do that. To sum it up, you are to be unstinting in your generosity in the same way our loving heavenly Parent's generosity is unstinting!"

Sermon: "Contentious Objectors: Preemptive Love Always Trumps War!

Current actions by our Department of War are leading to a sharp increase in soldiers seeking to become Conscientious Objectors!

3. Responding to God's Word

Congregational Singing (Cathy)
Response
Joys and Concerns
Offering & Music

"A tree is known by its fruit; a man by his deeds. A good deed is never lost; he who sows courtesy reaps friendship, and he who plants kindness gathers love." — Saint Basil

"Kindness in words creates confidence. Kindness in thinking creates profoundness. Kindness in giving creates love." — Lao Tzu

Sending (Steve): #991

God —

Make me an instrument of your peace.
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Sprit,
Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. — Amen