

February 15, 2026

“What is Church?”

In-Person (Greyrock Commons) and ZOOM Meeting

FORT COLLINS MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

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

Worship: 10:00 AM

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SEASON OF EPIPHANY

Epiphany means “to make manifest.” This is the season when we see Jesus’ divine mission revealed to the world. After delivering their monetary tributes and pledging their allegiance to their new king, those intrepid astronomers climbed back into their saddles again. But the journey home was via a different path since being wholly transformed, they could not go back the way they came. Today, the star still leads us to reflect its light.

1. GATHERING

Prelude (Geoff)

Call to Worship (Steve) — FCMF Values

One: Oh Lord, we intend to be a community of right relationship, unconditional love, and growth.

Many: Help us oh Lord to build right relationships.

One: Grant us to know that right relationships are a living connection, giving and receiving in the miraculous economy of your grace.

Many: Help us oh Lord aspire to unconditional love.

One: Your love, O Lord, is the breath of our being. We breathe it in with deep satisfaction. We breathe it out to those around us.

Many: Help us oh Lord to always seek growth.

One: Grow us, Oh Lord, not just to big, but to bountiful, knowing that you have made us, and will sustain us until we are all that we need to be.

All: We join our roots, oh Lord, in the soil of your community, touching in right relationship, breathing your unconditional love, and growing towards a bountiful harvest. Amen.

“Going to church doesn't make you any more a Christian than going to the garage makes you a car.” — Laurence J. Peter

“I understood at a very early age that in nature, I felt everything I should feel in church but never did. Walking in the woods, I felt in touch with the universe and with the spirit of the universe.”

— Alice Walker

Opening Prayer (Steve) — #863

Source of all hope and holiness, we gather today to be church.

Bless those who are absent, but not from our hearts.

Bless those who are distant, but not from our love.

Bless each of us here, that we may choose justice by your Spirit, draw kindness from the well of your mercy, and walk humbly in your path, O God.

Congregational Singing (Geoff)

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: Selections from 1 Peter 1 and 2 (CEB)

1:1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to God's chosen strangers in the world of the diaspora... 2 God has chosen you... God chose you through the Holy Spirit's work of making you holy and because of the faithful obedience and sacrifice of Jesus Christ. 2:1 Therefore, get rid of all ill will and all deceit, pretense, envy, and slander...

4 Now you are coming to him as to a living stone. Even though this stone was rejected by humans, from God's perspective it is chosen, valuable. 5 You yourselves are being built like living stones into a spiritual temple. You are being made into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6 Thus it is written in scripture, Look! I am laying a cornerstone in Zion, chosen, valuable. The person who believes in him will never be shamed ...

9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people who are God's own possession [a "peculiar people" - KJV]. You have become this people so that you may speak of the wonderful acts of the one who called you out of darkness into his amazing light. 10 Once you weren't a people, but now you are God's people. Once you hadn't received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

11 Dear friends, since you are immigrants and strangers in the world, I urge that you avoid worldly desires that wage war against your lives. 12 Live honorably among the unbelievers. Today, they defame you, as if you were doing evil. But in the day when God visits to judge they will glorify the Lord, because they have observed your honorable deeds.



Sermon: "What is Church?"

Is "church" a noun, a verb, or both? Is it a building or is it the community that gathers? Can it be a singular experience or must it be ongoing? Is it local, global, or both? Can it be an expression of feelings or only become real with gospel actions? And is church even necessary?

3. RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Congregational Singing (Geoff)

Reflections and Responses

Joys and Concerns

Offering & Music (Geoff)

"One of the greatest attacks of the enemy is to make you busy, to make you hurried, to make you noisy, to make you distracted, to fill the people of God and the Church of God with so much noise and activity that there is no room for prayer. There is no room for being alone with God. There is no room for silence. There is no room for meditation."
— Paul Washer

Benediction and Sending (Steve) — #1050

Leader: From where we are to where you need us:

All: Jesus, now lead on.

Leader: From the familiarity of what we know to the wonder of what you will reveal:

All: Jesus, now lead on.

Leader: to transform the fabric of this world until it resembles the shape of your kingdom:

All: Jesus, now lead on.

Leader: Because good things have been prepared for those who love God:

All: Jesus, now lead on.