

Nov. 5, 2023

“Loss, Remembrance, and Healing”

FORT COLLINS MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

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

Worship: 10:00 AM

Pastor: Steve Ramer

Cell: 970-412-7510



Welcoming the transformative work of the Holy Spirit in our congregations, we are liberated from a static understanding of the church, which often makes us allies of the status quo. As we open ourselves to the re-creating and animating power of the Holy Spirit, we become agents of healing and hope in the world.

1. GATHERING

Musical Prelude (John)

Call from Lamentations (Reader 1 and Reader 2)

1: I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall.

2: I well remember them, and my soul is downcast within me.

1: My eyes flow unceasingly, without relief. What I see brings grief to my soul.

2: The waters closed over my head, and I thought I was about to be cut off.

1: Joy is gone from our hearts; our dancing has turned to mourning.

2: But we are not cast off by the Lord forever.

1: Though life brings grief, God will show compassion.

2: I called on your name, from the depths of the pit. You heard my plea. You came near when I called.

1: O Lord, you took up my case; you redeemed my life. And therefore I have hope.

2: The Lord's compassions never fail, they are as fresh as the morning and as sure as each sunrise.

1: God does not change and great is God's faithfulness.

2: God's love is totally Awesome!

1: You, O LORD, reign forever; your throne endures from generation to generation.

All: Restore us to yourself, O LORD, that we may return and be renewed like our days of old.

Opening Song (Cathy)

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.

*"Everybody has losses - it's unavoidable in life. Sharing our pain is very healing."
— Isabel Allende*

2. HEARING GOD'S WORD

Responsive Reading: Revelation 7:9-17

Reader one: After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

Choir: "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

Reader two: And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing,

Choir: "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

Reader two: Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me,

Reader three: "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason, they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat: for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."



OPEN TIME FOR SHARING (All)

2023 has been a rough year – the climate crisis, Oak Flats and the ongoing fight against mining interests, global homelessness, ongoing violence, racism, sexism, and bigotry of all types ... and the latest fighting in the Middle East.

Feel free to share what you have lost this past year (or in years past) – physical or non-physical, human or non-human . . . and light a candle.

"The genius of Jesus' ministry is that he embraces tragedy, suffering, pain, betrayal, and death itself to bring us to God. There are no dead ends. Everything can be transmuted, and everything can be used. Everything."

— Richard Rohr

3. RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

"We Remember Them," Jewish Prayer Of Remembrance (by Jack Riemer and Sylvan Kamens)

In the rising of the sun and in its going down,
we remember them.

In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter,
we remember them.

In the opening of buds and in the rebirth of spring,
we remember them.

In the blueness of the sky and in the warmth of summer,
we remember them.

In the rustling of leaves and in the beauty of autumn,
we remember them.

In the beginning of the year and when it ends,
we remember them.

When we are weary and in need of strength,
we remember them.

When we are lost and sick at heart, we remember them.

When we have joys we yearn to share,
we remember them.

So long as we live, they too shall live, for they are now a part of us, as we remember them.

Responsive Reading (Revelation 21:1-6a)

S: Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth;

C: for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away,

S: and the sea was no more.

C: And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,

S: prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

C: And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

S: "See, the home of God is among mortals.

C: God will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them;

S: God will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more;

C: mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away."

S: And the one who was seated on the throne said,

C: "See, I am making all things new."

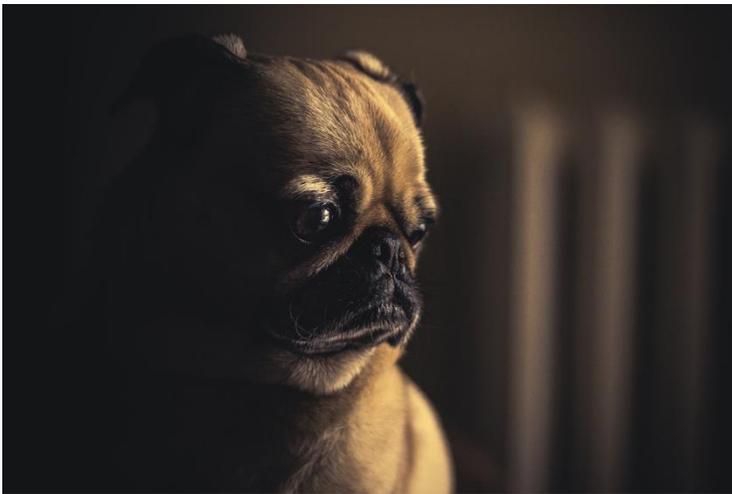
S: Also he said,

C: "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true."

Congregational Singing (Cathy)

Joys and Concerns (everyone)

Offering & Music (John)



Sending (all)

Christ has no body now on earth but ours.

Ours are the only hands with which Christ can do his work,

Ours are the only feet with which Christ can go about the world,

Ours are the only eyes through which Christ's compassion can shine forth on a troubled world.

Christ has no body on earth now but ours.

"The losses of the natural world are our loss, their silence silences something within the human mind." — Jay Griffiths

"The most beautiful people we have known are those who have known defeat, known suffering, known struggle, known loss, and have found their way out of those depths." — Elisabeth Kubler-Ross

"There is no better than adversity. Every defeat, every heartbreak, every loss, contains its own seed, its own lesson on how to improve your performance next time." — Malcolm X

Annual Fall 2023 Fellowship Meeting to Discuss 2024 Budget

Agenda

1. Opening Thoughts and Prayer
2. Stewardship Report - Denise
3. Current Financials Report - Denise and Steve
4. Proposed 2024 Budget Compared to 2023
5. Further Questions and Answers Regarding Budget Proposal
6. Further Discussion Without Staff
7. Finalize 2023 Budget by Fellowship

2023 Financials (as of October 31, 2023)

Income Type	Amount	Budget Year-to-Date	Budgeted for 2023	Difference	Notes
Pledged Giving	\$47,286.50	\$46,341.26	\$55,640.00	\$945.24	7% increase over 2022
Non-Pledged Giving	\$4,284.61	\$3,747.95	\$4,500.00	\$536.66	\$500 increase
Benevolence Fund	\$0.00	\$666.30	\$800.00	(\$666.30)	Gifts dedicated for individuals
Retreat	\$3,010.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,010.00	Received from retreat individuals
King Soopers Cards	\$428.89	\$416.44	\$500.00	\$12.45	
Everence Matching Funds	\$0.00	\$2,498.63	\$3,000.00	(\$2,498.63)	Everence sharing fund for individual benevolence/homeless outreach
Misc. Income	\$20,000.00	\$0.00		\$20,000.00	Ten Thousand Villages
Grants	\$10,000.00	\$4,164.38	\$5,000.00	\$5,835.62	Thunder Justice and Homeless Outreach
Fundraiser	\$456.58	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	(\$4,543.42)	Grant to cover increase in Renee's salary, other homeless outreach expenses, and Thunder Justice
TOTAL INCOME	\$85,466.58	\$61,999.34	\$74,440.00	\$23,467.24	
Expense Type	Amount	Budget Year-to-Date	Budgeted for 2023	Difference	Notes
Capital Improvements	\$1,994.85	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$1,994.85)	Dedicated grants \$8,900 already received for kitchen improvements in 2020
Utilities	\$11,868.80	\$6,663.01	\$8,000.00	(\$5,205.79)	
Insurance	\$6,531.00	\$4,997.26	\$6,000.00	(\$1,533.74)	
Maintenance & Repair	\$2,257.64	\$2,082.19	\$2,500.00	(\$175.45)	Snow removal, garden, mailbox - building repairs
Office Supplies	\$78.48	\$33.32	\$40.00	(\$45.16)	
Misc. Expenses	\$232.40	\$249.86	\$300.00	\$17.46	CO Secretary of State – Non-profit status, etc.
Other Supplies	\$206.16	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$206.16)	bulletin copies, ethernet cable, Easter supplies
Pastor Salary	\$30,000.00	\$29,983.56	\$36,000.00	(\$16.44)	no increase
Outreach Specialist	\$12,562.50	\$12,493.15	\$15,000.00	(\$69.35)	\$3000 increase for Renee (from grants/fundraisers)
Payroll Service	\$410.00	\$499.73	\$600.00	\$89.73	
Benevolence Matching Fund	\$1,085.19	\$1,249.32	\$1,500.00	\$164.13	For individual requests. Matched by Everence
Homeless Outreach	\$3,027.70	\$3,331.51	\$4,000.00	\$303.81	\$1000 increase
Thunder Justice	\$3,992.02	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$3,992.02)	Fransen Grant
Retreat Costs	\$2,494.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$2,494.00)	For scholarships
Everence Bank Account	\$105.00	\$416.44	\$500.00	\$311.44	
Mountain States Menno	\$500.00	\$416.44	\$500.00	(\$83.56)	same as 2022
Inter Faith Council	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	totally dependent on grant funding
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$77,345.74	\$62,415.78	\$74,940.00	(\$14,929.96)	
GRAND TOTAL	\$8,120.84	(\$416.44)	(\$500.00)	\$38,397.20	Total Income - Total Expense
Checking Balance	\$10,088.69				
Savings Balance	\$10,607.24				
Everence Bank Account	\$205.01				
TOTAL IN BANK	\$20,900.94				