



September 2014

**Collbran Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
PO Box 160
Collbran Colorado 81624**

**To Contact Pastor Bryant
Church: 970-487-3349
Mobile: 970-274-6846
E-Mail: nsoulr@gmail.com**

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Karen Armstrong is a British author who wrote **A HISTORY OF GOD: THE 4,000-YEAR QUEST OF JUDAISM, CHRISTIANITY AND ISLAM**. Her work focuses on commonalities of the major religions, such as the importance of compassion and the Golden Rule. As one of the foremost commentators on religious affairs, she has said of our current situation, *"Fundamentalism is now part of the modern world...." "It represents disappointment, alienation, and anxiety."*

*"The
Reluctant
Fundamentalist"*

Islamic fundamentalists seem to operate with closed minds and clenched fists, seeing themselves in a holy war against America. And looking deeply at the post-9/11 mood in the United States, we see that it has morphed into hatred and prejudice against persons who are different than *"us,"* especially, Muslims. In both brands of fundamentalism, there has been a hardening of the hearts of zealots who believe in the righteousness of their cause and who are willing to do anything it takes to win the war against their enemies.

In any dialogue we have with those with different perspectives we need an open mind and a softened heart. Jesus said to his disciples, *"See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves."*

55 years ago this month, Martin Luther King, Jr. reframed Jesus' words to reflect the need for non-violent dialogue across the racial divide. He said:

"So Jesus reminds in a striking way that the good life demands combining the toughness of the serpent with the tenderness of the dove. To have serpent-like qualities devoid of dove-like qualities is to be passionless, mean and selfish. To have dove-like qualities without serpent-like qualities is to be sentimental, aimless, and empty. We must combine in our characters [these] antitheses."

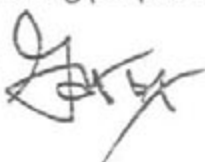
He goes on to describe how these qualities are rooted in the very nature of God:

"The greatness of our God lies in the fact that he is both tough minded and tender hearted. This tough-mindedness of God is expressed in an austere masculinity. The tender-heartedness of God is expressed in a gentle femininity.... The Bible stresses both the tough mindedness of God – His justice and Wrath – and the tender-heartedness of God – his love and grace. God has two strong arms-one that is strong enough to surround us with justice and one that is gentle enough to surround us with grace."

These spiritual faculties are in short-supply in our very polarized and confrontational society/world where so many people still divide the world into good and bad people. Mira Nair disabuses us of that bad habit and points the way to other options in her profound film-adaptation of Mohsin Hamid's novel, **THE RELUCTANT FUNDAMENTALIST**. It is a riveting depiction of extremism in our world and the global danger it poses for all of us. *(If you were unable to view the film with us on Sunday evening, August 24th, I am willing to make the DVD available for you to watch at home.)*

Elsewhere in the Mustard Seed, I have included a copy of the **CHARTER FOR COMPASSION**, which Karen Armstrong proposed in her **TED Talk**, February, 2008.

Godspeed,



THE TEXT OF THE CHARTER FOR COMPASSION

The principle of compassion lies at the heart of all religious, ethical and spiritual traditions, calling us always to treat all others as we wish to be treated ourselves. Compassion impels us to work tirelessly to alleviate the suffering of our fellow creatures, to dethrone ourselves from the center of our world and put another there, and to honor the inviolable sanctity of every single human being, treating everybody, without exception, with absolute justice, equity and respect.

It is also necessary in both public and private life to refrain consistently and empathically from inflicting pain. To act or speak violently out of spite, chauvinism, or self-interest, to impoverish, exploit or deny basic rights to anybody, and to incite hatred by denigrating others—even our enemies—is a denial of our common humanity. We acknowledge that we have failed to live compassionately and that some have even increased the sum of human misery in the name of religion.

We therefore call upon all men and women to restore compassion to the center of morality and religion ~ to return to the ancient principle that any interpretation of scripture that breeds violence, hatred or disdain is illegitimate ~ to ensure that youth are given accurate and respectful information about other traditions, religions and cultures ~ to encourage a positive appreciation of cultural and religious diversity ~ to cultivate an informed empathy with the suffering of all human beings—even those regarded as enemies.

We urgently need to make compassion a clear, luminous and dynamic force in our polarized world. Rooted in a principled determination to transcend selfishness, compassion can break down political, dogmatic, ideological and religious boundaries. Born of our deep interdependence, compassion is essential to human relationships and to a fulfilled humanity. It is the path to enlightenment, and indispensable to the creation of a just economy and a peaceful global community

YOU ARE INVITED ! REJOICE ! SEPTEMBER 28, at 3 p.m. Reception to follow.

1425 North 5th Street, Grand Junction, Co. 81501 All are invited to participate in the

The Installation of Rev. Brenda Brown as Senior Minister of 1st Congregational Church

Women's Fellowship

Fall schedule = Sept.9th at 10 am. Layettes for newborns. Please help assemble kits.

October 14th = Fall planning and cleaning day. We could use your help. 10 am.

November 11th, 10 am. Preparation for the annual Turkey dinner on November 15th
at 11:30 to 1:30 pm. Invite your friends and family !

December 9th, 10 am Regular meeting. Prepare kits for Grand Junction Rescue Mission

Sincere thanks to each one who contributes to the food pantry. We have been restocking
with your generous contributions,

Officers – President, Nancy Karlson 487-3740

Vice President – Clara Mae Ward 487-3297

Secretary-Treasurer – Julia Cox 487-3750

Church Schedule:

1st Labor Day

7th – Grandparent Day

8th – Church Council 6:30 pm

9th - Women's Fellowship 10 am

23rd – 1st day of Autumn

28th – Color Sunday

Do not forget – we will go back to our fall times for Sunday School and Service

Sunday School at 9:45 am Church at 11 am

Let us not forget how incredibly blessed
we are. We have so very much to be
thankful for...

Man often becomes what he believes himself to be. If I keep on saying to myself that I cannot do a certain thing, it is possible that I may end by really becoming incapable of doing it. If I have the belief that I can do it, I shall surely acquire the capacity to do it even if I may not have it at the beginning.
Mahatma Gandhi.

A little girl said her prayers each night blessing every family member, every friend, and every animal (current and past) and at the end of her prayers would say 'and all girls!' Her mother finally asked why she did this. Well, she said, everyone always says 'all men' and I think girls should be included.

Reality is merely an illusion, albeit a very persistent one. Albert Einstein

Cleverness is not Wisdom. Euripides

Those who bring sunshine to the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves. James Barrie

The only way to prove that you are a good sport is to lose! Ernie Banks

Make peace with your past so it won't spoil the present.

The old adage about you can't teach an old dog new tricks is not true! This past week has been a real eye opener for me, and yes I am learning this new and very confusing computer. It constantly reminds me how advanced the world is becoming. I feel like I'm back in first grade! My mind isn't as quick as it used to be, but it has become more stubborn! I will learn this!!

DeBeque United Outreach Proudly Presents C. H. A. O. S.
"Christ Helps Anyone Overcoming Suffering"

A Christian women's gathering and Pork Tenderloin meal
Prepared by locally renowned expert cook – Linda Doden

Sept. 12, 2014 – 6:30 pm DeBeque Community Center
on Minter Avenue

Musician and speaker from Baptist Church in Carbondale:
BETH JAYNE

Any and all women who would like to hear this encouraging
message are welcome to attend. Please RSVP by Sept. 5th to:
Donna Anderson – 283-5387 Cheryl Morris 283-5325



September's Noisy Offering goes to Partnership Niger. I have a letter from Marlene Barger concerning this project and I will quote parts to you so you will know how important this is.

"Many thanks for your prayers. I hope you continue to pray for me since I am staying longer this trip. During my time here, I'll finish work on the Zarma.net website. I hope to make it more user friendly to people in this country. I'm also converting Bible-based resource for use with cell phones. A growing percent of the people here own a cell phone or have access to one. These are feature phones that in addition to making calls, have the capacity to play digital audio files such as theatrical productions recorded by the Messengers of Christ acting troupe. They can view on a small screen such videos as THE JESUS FILM, Material that Partnership Niger has helped over the years that will reach a much larger audience when they can be viewed on on these feature phones.

Leaders at the Mobile Ministry Forum have developed an online course teaching practical skills for using cell phones as evangelistic tools. As I complete this study, I'll be able to apply the information to our situation in this part of the world. I look forward to learning how to use the mobile technology to reach even more people with Gospel message."

Birthdays for September

Ann Anderson	Lillian Chapman
Brevin Currier	Emily Currier
Joshua Currier	Justine Flynn
Jacob Hamm	Christian Hill
Ken Smilie	Marie Snow
Scott Tyler	Rex Weimer
Shayna Wilson	

Anniversaries

Larry and Suzanne Bellotti
Chad and Jennie Reiners
Cecil and Evonne Stites

it's the
little moments
that make
life BIG



"I love to go to Washington—if only to be near my money."
Bob Hope, quoted in The Wall Street Journal

"Far too many people are looking for the right person, instead of trying to be the right person."
Gloria Steinem, quoted in Elle.com

Let us not forget how incredibly blessed we are. We have so very much to be thankful for...

8. What figure did Jesus use as a contrast to the humble tax collector?
9. What did the hungry Esau give up to Jacob in exchange for food?
10. What was Judas given to betray Jesus?
11. By what other name was the tax collector Matthew known?
12. What did John the Baptist tell the tax collectors who came to him for baptism?
13. Who offered Delilah silver if she could find out the secret of Samson's strength?
14. Who bribed the guards at Jesus' tomb to say that the disciples had stolen the body?
15. According to the Law, how much tax did all adult Israelites have to pay when the census was taken?
16. What ruler imposed tribute in Jesus' day?
17. Who taxed his subjects in order to pay tribute to Pharaoh Neco of Egypt?
18. What king is remembered as placing a "heavy yoke" of taxation on Israel?
19. What king of Israel paid tribute money to King Shalmaneser of Assyria?
20. Who laid a tax on the whole Persian Empire?
21. To what king of Judah did the Philistines bring tribute?
22. What Persian king exempted the priests and Levites from paying taxes?
23. What empire's taxation led to Jesus being born in Bethlehem?
24. Whose wife was threatened with having her family's house burned down unless she would find the answer to Samson's riddle?
25. Who made for Jesus a feast that was attended by many tax collectors?

**The church has tables and chairs
for rent. Family reunions, special
occasions, meetings or celebrations
Call Nancy 487-3740**

Life.*

*Available for a limited time only. Limit one (1) per person. Subject to change without notice. Provided "as is" and without any warranties. Nontransferable and is the sole responsibility of the recipient. May incur damages arising from use or misuse. Additional parts sold separately. Your mileage may vary. Subject to all applicable fees and taxes. Terms and conditions apply. Other restrictions apply.

 **SERVING OUR COUNTRY** 

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|---------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Andrew Bellotti | Jaron Lachinet | Elijah Brito | Mark Lachinet |
| Adam Brown | Chris Box | Tony Clements | DJ Schuman |
| Corey Martin | Jason Hallett | Jake Harris | Alan Salamanca |
| Kimberley Schneider | Chad Schneider | Justin Cady | Eric DuVall |
| Kasindra VanMeter | Sarah Tressel | John Lloyd | |

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday School will start Sunday September 14th at 9:45am. We will open with songs and stories in the sanctuary before going to classrooms. Please plan on joining us for the Fall session. We will be studying the Old Testament, learning the books of the Bible through song, and learning to find verses and stories in the Bible on your own.

Edith Ann will be leading the toddlers and those under 5 years old.

Sue Bellotti will be leading the class for older students 5 and older. We will begin another class if there is attendance of children 4th Grade and older.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL RECAP

The 3-day VBS was held the last week of June. The first day saw 35 children in attendance with 45 the final day. Songs, stories, and crafts were shared by everyone and the treats and recreation were held in the park. Everyone got a little wet and a little wild. It was a fun time.

The mission project was PROJECT MOSQUITO NETS. The VBS children and staff raised \$437.61, with the congregation members adding an additional \$150.00, creating a generous total of \$587.61.

A letter of Thanks has been received from The Power of Love Foundation for the donation. The funds will be used in Zambia for mosquito nets and education on the prevention of malaria to families vulnerable to malaria.

We are already planning and looking forward to next summer's VBS Program.

Sue Bellotti, Director

COLLBRAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH IS HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE A NEW, ACTIVE WEB SITE.

YOU CAN FIND US AT www.collbrancongregationalchurch.org. Come see what the site looks like and follow the activities and events that will be taking place this Fall. Thanks to Kammy McElwain at McDel Publishing for the great job.

PUZZLE ANSWERS:

8. A Pharisee (Luke 18:9-14)
9. His birthright (Genesis 25:29-34)
10. Thirty pieces of silver (Matthew 26:14-16)
11. Levi (Luke 5:29-32)
12. To collect no more than was legal (Luke 3:12-13)
13. The lords of the Philistines (Judges 16:5)
14. The chief priests (Matthew 28:11-15)
15. A half shekel each (Exodus 30:12-16)
16. Caesar (Matthew 22:17-22)
17. Jehoiakim (2 Kings 23:33-35)
18. Solomon (1 Kings 12:1-14)
19. Hoshea (2 Kings 17:3-4)
20. King Ahasuerus (Esther 10:1)
21. Jehoshaphat (2 Chronicles 17:11)
22. Artaxerxes (Ezra 7:24)
23. Rome (Luke 2:1-7)
24. Samson's (Judges 14:15)
25. Levi (or Matthew) (Luke 5:29-32)