

November 1, 2026

Around the Table

Stories, Updates, and Life at First Christian Church

Pull up a chair . . .

Under the Fig Tree ~



Sunday is All Saints Day when we remember our dead. I'd like to share some poetic thoughts on grieving.

That was the only time, as I stood there, looking at that strange rubbish, feeling the wind coming across those empty fields, that I started to imagine just a little fantasy thing, because this was Norfolk after all, and it was only a couple of weeks since I'd lost him. I was thinking about the rubbish, the flapping plastic in the branches, the shore-line of odd stuff caught along the fencing, and I half-closed my eyes and imagined this was the spot where everything I'd ever lost since my childhood had washed up, and I was now standing here in front of it, and if I waited long enough, a tiny figure would appear on the horizon across the field, and gradually get larger until I'd see it was Tommy, and he'd wave, maybe even call. The fantasy never got beyond that --I didn't let it-- and though the tears rolled down my face, I wasn't sobbing or out of control. I just waited a bit, then turned back to the car, to drive off to wherever it was I was supposed to be."
— Kazuo Ishiguro, Never Let Me Go

"I was tired of well-meaning folks, telling me it was time I got over being heartbroke. When somebody tells you that, a little bell ought to ding in your mind. Some people don't know grief from garlic grits. There's somethings a body ain't meant to get over. No I'm not suggesting you wallow in sorrow, or let it drag on; no I am just saying it never really goes away. (A death in the family) is like having a pile of rocks dumped in your front yard. Every day you walk out and see them rocks. They're sharp and ugly and heavy. You just learn to live around them the best way you can. Some people plant moss or ivy; some leave it be. Some folks take the rocks one by one, and build a wall."
— Michael Lee West, American Pie

"You will lose someone you can't live without,and your heart will be badly broken, and the bad news is that you never completely get over the loss of your beloved. But this is also the good news. They live forever in your broken heart that doesn't seal back up. And you come through. It's like having a broken leg that never heals perfectly—that still hurts when the weather gets cold, but you learn to dance with the limp."
— Anne Lamott

"Lay down
Your tired & weary head my friend.
We have wept too long
Night is falling
And you we are only sleeping

We have come to this journey's end
It's time for us to go
To meet our friends
Who beckon us
To jump again

From across a distant sky
A C-130 comes to carry us
Where we shall all wait
For the final green light

In the light of
The pale moon rising
I see far on the horizon
Into the world of night and darkness
Feet and knees together

Time has ceased
But cherished memories still linger
This is the way of life and all things
We shall meet again
You are only sleeping."
— José N. Harris, Mi Vida

Sunday Worship

November 1, 2026

Welcome
Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Praise Song– *"For All the Saints"*

Scripture: 1 Thess. 2:9-13
Sermon: A Soccer Mom Family
Pastor Lew Champ

Worship Song– *"Goodness of God"*

Intercessory Prayers

Communion Song– *"Word of God Speak"*
Eucharist

Thanksgiving Prayer
Offering
Doxology

Announcements

Closing Song– *"Always"*
Benediction



Lectionary Readings

November 1, 2026

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Joshua 3:7-17

Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37

Micah 3:5-12

Psalm 43

1 Thessalonians 2:9-13

This Sunday November 1

Scripture: 1 Thess. 2:9-13
Sermon: A Soccer Mom Family
Pastor Lew Champ



Prayer Intercessors

Meet every Sunday morning at 9:00 AM

Prayer Concerns

NEW CONCERNS –

Shaye Champ-Correll was in intensive care last week, but is home now. They have now found the correct medicine to control her ACH factor (disease of kidney & adrenal glands).

Peni Carson is now moved out to Fleming with Jason & Deb. She was delighted to have Jackson home (who helped with the move!) Jackson and his girlfriend joined us at worship this past Sunday!

Neil Lovell totalled his car when a deer jumped out in front of him. He is OKAY! Thank you, Jesus!

Phil Holland began physical therapy last week. He is anxious to get moving and get better!

Wanda Vallejos is done with physical therapy on her hand. She is doing much better.

Ron Tatman, Linda Champ's brother, is doing well after his bypass and valve replacement!

Margie Ellis, Carla's aunt (88), is doing well with her pancreatic cancer. She is at stage 1 at this time.

Frances Mason was released from the rehab center on 10/19. She is doing well and looking forward to going home! Please keep her son in your prayers, as he had hernia surgery a couple of weeks ago.

Christa Barber had a dr. on 9/30. Pray for no cancer and answers for her stomach.

Sierra Newth, Devin Newth's daughter, is having health issues.

Julia Chen Chou - is suffering with anxiety and panic attacks and is developing depression. She is asking for people to call her. Please contact Julie Sonnenberg for more information.

OUR CHURCH –

Pray for the transition team, elders, and all those who will be guiding our church into the next phase of her life

OUR WORLD –

- Hurricanes in Florida
- School shooting in Bend, Oregon

DEMENTIA & ALZHEIMER'S –

Please pray for everyone who is dealing with declining memory and Alzheimer's.

CANCER -

Please pray for all those fighting cancer.
Margie Ellis, Bill Spicer, J.R. Coberly, Christina LaBlanc, Jessie, McGrew, Mike Kerker, Malita Mahali, Nora Fanelli, Emerson, Kelly Rae Churchill, Michelle, Wade Gandee, Jeanne Klemt, Gracie Dixon, Alizar Chavez Mendoza, Lew Champ, Keith Hobson, Darren Campbell, Gary Mix, Kyle Bean, Dean Meharg, Randy Richards

JOYS

Julia Chen Chou's son came to visit her this last weekend!

Leo Sonnenberg is able to play a card game.

CONTINUING PRAYERS –

George Lulf
Abby (Lisa Hedlund's niece)
Padilla Family
Brenda Palmer
Gordon Felzien
Steve Firme
Kay Gentry
Coy
JR Coberly
Ellie Beede
Frances Mason
Leo, AJ & Sarah Sonnenberg
Carol & Myron Graybill
Renee (Sue Lovell's Friend)
Wade Pelton
Carole Wohlers
Tim (Lovell's friend)

Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

Romans 12:10 (NIV)



Links From Sunday

Full Sunday Service
Available on Facebook for a few weeks

Sermon ONLY
Available on YouTube

Family Resource Center

FOOD DRIVE

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

FOOD ITEMS NEEDED

Shelf Stable Meals such as:

- Soups
- Mac N Cheese Cups
- Ravioli
- Canned Chili
- SpaghettiOs
- Tuna Lunch Kit
- Chicken Lunch Kit
- Instant Oatmeal Cups
- Cup-of-Noodles
- Rice Cups
- Cereal Cups
- Hormel Compleats
- **All NON EXPIRED food items are welcome!**

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5

Group 1	-	9:30 AM
Group 2	-	6:30 PM



Daylight Savings Time Ends

Don't forget to set your clocks back 1 hour before bed!

Serving Schedule

Date	Usher	Preparing Deacon	Elder
11/01	Julie Sonnenberg	Tammy Sonnenberg	Julie Sonnenberg
11/08	Julie Sonnenberg	Tammy Sonnenberg	Gene Russell

First Christian Church

Our Mission

To make more and better Christians for the sake of the world.

Our Vision

We seek to be a faithful Christian community with a deep love for God and others.



11/2 Rita Sonnenberg
11/5 Pat McReynolds



11/2 Adrian & Nichole Rodriguez
11/4 James & Wanda Vallejos

CONTACT US

Pastor Lew Champ
pastor@fccsterling.com
(970)238-0615

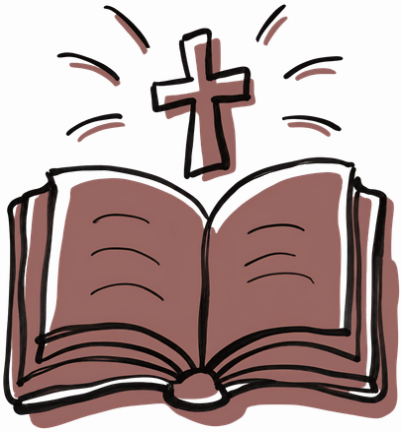
Bobbie Brekel
secretary@fccsterling.com
(970)576-1970
Mailbox in Church Library

Dana Palmer
(970)520-4350

Website
www.fccsterling.com

YouTube
@FCC100BroadwaySterlingCO





Men's Bible Study

Tuesday | 9:30 AM

Bible Study

Wednesday | 10:00 AM



Wednesday Nights Around the Table

Dinner
6:00 PM
This week we are ordering pizza, everyone chip in





Wednesday Night Conversations
7:00 PM

Pull up a chair...
Let's Eat, Share,
& Talk About It!

This Sunday, November 1, we'll take time to lovingly remember those who have entered Heaven this past year. During the service, a candle will be placed on the communion table for each person we're remembering, honoring both our church family and your loved ones. As we come forward for communion, you're invited to light a candle in memory of someone special—whether it's a recent loss or a loved one from years past. Candles will be available at the front of the church. May this be a tender time of reflection, gratitude, and hope as we remember those who continue to live on in our hearts.



In Memoriam 2026

All Saints Sunday · November 1, 2026

Mary Ann Bellendir	11/22/2025	Joey Bellendir's grandmother
Frank Hilty		Pat Crough's sister, Ellen's husband
Lyle Koch	12/27/2025	Lew's cousin, Lila Koch's husband
	01/21/2026	Denise Gaynor's mother
Doug Parmer	01/15/2026	Dana Parmer's brother
Sally Torres	02/04/2026	
Gloria Phillips	02/28/2026	Della Williams' friend
Russ Fincham	03/20/2026	Lew Champ's seminary friend
Georgia Ann Niblett	05/23/2026	Chris & Linda Merkl's S-I-L's mother
Rob Holsinger	07/09/2026	Bill, Pat, & Lew's friend from college
Jaunita Womack	07/16/2026	Jeremy Broaddus' grandmother
Jerry McBride	07/21/2026	Jim McBride's brother
Cody Henry	08/20/2026	Siri Russell's brother
JoAnne Pfaltzgraff	08/23/2026	Josh Hager's grandmother/Nita Gillham's mother
Verna Sonnenberg	09/04/2026	Sam & Tim Sonnenberg's mother