

FCC CONNECTIONS

Under the Fig Tree ~

Loving When it is Hard



God knew what he was doing from the very beginning. He decided from the outset to shape the lives of those who love him along the same lines as the life of his Son. The Son stands first in the line of humanity he restored. We see the original and intended shape of our lives there in him. After God made that decision of what his children should be like, he followed it up by calling people by name. After he called them by name, he set them on a solid basis with himself. And then, after getting them established, he stayed with them to the end, gloriously completing what he had begun. (Romans 8:29-30 MSG)

Jesus says that as our Good Shepherd, he is leading us. What an encouraging thought. Jesus is leading you, and he is leading me. He is shepherding us. I can feel something in my heart loosening even now as I consider this. Okay. I don't have to make life happen on my own. Now, if Christ takes it upon himself to lead, then our part is to follow. And you'll find that it helps a great deal in your following if you know what God is up to. True, we may not know exactly what God is up to in this or that event in our lives. "Why didn't I get the job?" "How come she won't return my calls?" "Why haven't my prayers healed this cancer?" I don't know. Sometimes we can get clarity, and sometimes we can't.

But whatever else is going on, we can know this: God is always up to our transformation.

Lew Champ



Worship May 3, 2026

Welcome
Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Praise Song- "Amadeo (Still My God)"

Scripture: Acts 7:55-60
Sermon: *When Love is Not Reciprocated*
Pastor Lew Champ

Worship Song- "Any More"

Intercessory Prayers

Communion Song- "Word of God Speak"
Eucharist

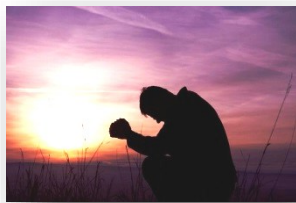
Thanksgiving Prayer
Offering
Doxology

Announcements

Closing Song- "Good God Almighty"

Benediction





Lectionary Readings

5th Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2026

Acts 7:55-60

Psalms 31:1-5, 15-16

1 Peter 2:2-10

John 14:1-14

*This Sunday,
May 3*

Scripture: Acts 7:55-60
Sermon: When Love is Not Reciprocated
Pastor Lew Champ



**Prayer
Intercessors**
Meet every
Sunday morning
at 9:00 am

NEW CONCERNS -

Leo Sonnenberg had a bad seizure on 4/29, had to take a helicopter ride to Children's. The seizure was a different type than usual. They will be staying there for a few days to figure it out. Please pray for **Leo, AJ & Sarah**.

Della Williams surgery went well 4/28! Doing the MOHS procedure, they only had to scrap the spot once

Phil Holland's arm is continuing to heal and do better. He saw a surgeon on 4/30.
Dee Holland is feeling good!

Barbers are all moved in, just have some more boxes to go through.
Christa's surgery is scheduled for 6/16.

Brenda Palmer is doing well. Pain is declining and no narcotics since last week. She is thankful for the prayers and asked that we "keep them coming!"

Kristie Firme has asked for prayer for her Walk to Emmaus at the end of May. She will be leading the trip!

Genesis, **Carla's** granddaughter, is in need of prayers.

John Drury is moving his **mother** here to their home in Sterling. She has endometrial cancer and needs radiation.

Pat Crough is feeling a bit better from her intestinal issues.

Ellie Beede, **Pat Crough's** friend, fell and broke her neck in two places. She has a neck brace but is able to walk! Please pray for **Ellie**.

MISSIONARY -

Pastor Julia Chen Chou had her surgery. The doctors got the tumor out, surgery went well!

CANCER -

Please pray for all those fighting cancer.

John Drury's mother, **Bill Spicer**, **J.R. Coberly**, **Christina LaBlanc**, **Jessie McGrew**, **Mike Kerker**, **Malita Mahali**, **Nora Fanelli**, **Emerson**, **Kelly Rae Churchill**, **Michelle**, **Wade Gandee**, **Jeanne Klemm**, **Gracie Dixon**, **Alizar Chavez Mendoza**, **Lew Champ**, **Keith Hobson**, **Darren Campbell**, **Gary Mix**, **Kyle Bean**, **Dean Meharg**, **Randy Richards**

DEMENTIA & ALZHEIMER'S -

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

WEATHER -

Please pray for rain for our land. Pray to end this drought, for the farmers, for the crops, and for the livestock.

The folks around Enid, Oklahoma who experienced an EF-4 tornado, there were not deaths but more than 40 homes were destroyed. Church World Service is there helping.

Pray for all the crazy weather tragedies.

JOYS -

Baby Oliver that we've prayed for is doing well.

Tim & Tammy Sonnenberg are grandparents again!! **Amy** had a little girl weighing 6 lbs. 15 oz! They flew out to meet **Gemma Louise** on 4/29.

CONTINUING PRAYERS -

Lew Champ
Frances Mason
Ronald (Sue Lovell's Friend's brother)
Kay Gentry
Matt & Ceri Russell
Leo Sonnenberg
Bill & Sharon Spicer
Schonefelds (Merkl's neighbors)
Adriana
Carol Graybill
Ariya Barber
Koy
Nettie Axtell
Georgia
Denise Gaynor
Addy Bacon
Renee (Sue Lovell's Friend)
Wade Pelton
Gordon Jones
Carole Wohlers
Sasaki Family
Kelly Hartman
Tim (Lovell's friend)
Maxine McFarland
Gene & Rita Uhler
Liam
Rodriquez Family

LINKS TO LAST SUNDAY'S SERVICE

Facebook FULL Service — Available for a few weeks:

<https://www.facebook.com/fccsterlingcolorado/videos/1528504552123145>

YouTube ONLY Sermon — Always Available:

<https://youtu.be/3iN5KZRorpQ>

WCC deeply aggrieved by desecration of Jesus statue in southern Lebanon

by [Middle East and Europe](#) | published on Apr 22, 2026

World Council of Churches general secretary Rev. Prof. Dr Jerry Pillay said that he was deeply aggrieved by the desecration of a statue of Jesus on the cross by an Israeli soldier in southern Lebanon, depicted in a widely-circulated image.



**World Council
of Churches**

"We join Christians in the region and around the world in their outrage and denunciation of this affront to the dignity and feelings of Christians everywhere, and in calling for accountability for those involved in perpetrating this act," he said. "We are very grateful for the expressions of solidarity and support received from many Jewish counterparts and the subsequent effort to restore the statue."

Sadly, this act is not an isolated incident, but reflective of a wider and growing trend, Pillay noted. "Church leaders of the region confirm this troubling and destabilizing reality, as well as persistent and increasing constraints on freedom of worship," he said. "Moreover, this incident took place in the context of Israeli military incursions in southern Lebanon which have not only led to this desecration of religious symbols but to the displacement and traumatization of entire communities, many of them Christian."

Pillay called for an end to the Israeli military action in Lebanon, the swift withdrawal of Israeli troops from southern Lebanon so that the displaced communities may return to their homes and places of worship, and sustained and effective action to turn the toxic tide of anti-Christian animosity in Israel.

SERVING SCHEDULE

Date	Usher	Preparing Deacon	Elder
May 3	Della Williams	Marcia Lulf	Gene Russell
May 10	Della Williams	Marcia Lulf	Chris Merkl

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.



05/08 George Lulf

HAPPY
Anniversary

05/09 Tim & Tammy
Sonnenberg

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

Church Phone Number
(970) 522-3353

PLEASE NOTE:
the emails end in .COM
In your email contacts, please remove the church emails that end in .ORG as they have not been used since 2013.



Baptisms will be held on May 24th, Pentecost Sunday. If you are interested in confessing your faith in Jesus and being baptized, please contact Lew as soon as possible.



TO DO JUSTICE, LOVE KINDNESS, AND WALK HUMBLLY WITH YOUR GOD. -MICAH 6:8



LOVE IN ACTION.

2026 PENTECOST OFFERING SUNDAYS MAY 17 AND MAY 24



Baby Bottle Campaign

It's time for our Caring Pregnancy Resource Center of Northeast Colorado Baby Bottle Campaign — and we're starting early! Pick up a baby bottle from the back of the Sanctuary and fill it with your spare change, cash, or checks. Let's see if we can top last year's total!





**THURSDAY
May 7**

CWF Group 1 — 9:30AM

CWF Group 2 — 6:30PM