



# FCC CONNECTIONS

## Under the Fig Tree ~

### Loving When it is Hard



In February 1977, Bishop Festo Kivengere was part of a group of church leaders who delivered a letter of protest to the dictator, Idi Amin, (one of the most brutal tyrants of the 70's) speaking out against the beatings, arbitrary killings and unexplained disappearances taking place across Uganda at that time. The next day, Festo Kivengere's friend and leader, Archbishop Janani Luwum was murdered by Idi Amin and Bishop Festo was driven into hiding and then exile.

Soon afterwards, Festo Kivengere published a book entitled *I Love Idi Amin*. In the book he explained the extraordinary title: 'The Holy Spirit showed me that I was getting hard in my spirit... so I had to ask for forgiveness from the Lord, and for grace to love President Amin more... this was fresh air for my tired soul. I knew I had seen the Lord and been released: love filled my heart.'

Love is more than a feeling or an emotion. It is a decision about how we treat one another. Jesus was the supreme example of love in the history of the world. He tells us to love God, to love one another (John 13:34-35), to love our neighbour as ourselves and even to love our enemies. He demonstrates all this in his own life through loving everyone (even Judas who betrayed him as we see in the verses prior to the text reference just made), and laying down his life for us all in love.

Hope to see you Sunday

Lew

## Worship April 26, 2026

Welcome  
Prayer & Lord's Prayer  
Praise Song- "*Holy Spirit Come*"  
Scripture: 1 Peter 2:19-25  
Sermon: *Addressing the Oketai*  
Pastor Lew Champ  
Worship Song- "*Let My Words Be Few*"  
Intercessory Prayers  
Communion Song- "*Here With Me*"  
Eucharist  
Thanksgiving Prayer  
Offering  
Doxology  
Announcements  
Closing Song- "*Always*"  
Benediction





**Lectionary Readings**

4th Sunday of Easter

**April 26, 2025**

Acts 2:42-47

Psalms 23

1 Peter 2:19-25

John 10:1-10

*This Sunday,  
April 26*

Scripture: 1 Peter 2:19-25  
Sermon: *Addressing the Oketai*  
Pastor Lew Champ



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

NEW CONCERNS -

**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!

DEMENTIA & ALZHEIMER'S -

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

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 Klemt, Gracie Dixon, Alizar Chavez Mendoza, Lew Champ, Keith Hobson, Darren Campbell, Gary Mix, Kyle Bean, Dean Meharg, Randy Richards

OUR CHURCH -

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

RAIN -

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

JOYS -

**Tim & Tammy Sonnenberg** are grandparents again!! Amy had a little girl!

**Alan Fisher** is clear of cancer!!

**Dee Holland** is cancer free!!

**Seth** is doing well at his Amazon job!

CONTINUING PRAYERS -

- Lew Champ
- Frances Mason
- Brenda Palmer
- Ronald (Sue Lovell's Friend's brother)
- Kay Gentry
- Phil & Dee Holland
- 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

**Reminder: Newsletter Submissions**

If you would like something included in the newsletter or need to add or update a prayer concern, please contact Bobbie directly. The best and preferred method is email at [secretary@fccsterling.com](mailto:secretary@fccsterling.com). You may also leave a note in Bobbie's mailbox in the church library. While calls or texts to (970)576-1970 are accepted, they are not the preferred method.





Dear Church Family,  
 I'd like to thank all the men who came out to our house this past Sunday to help me put the covering on my new hoop house. It made the whole process much easier and faster. Sue and I are so appreciative of our church family. You have always been there for us when we needed you!  
 God Bless, Lynn Lovell (and Sue)

*thank you*

### LINKS TO LAST SUNDAY'S SERVICE

**Facebook FULL Service — Available for a few weeks:**

<https://www.facebook.com/fccsterlingcolorado/videos/1659215812163975>

**YouTube ONLY Sermon — Always Available:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LIG4fLyqYyY>

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!



### SERVING SCHEDULE

Date	Usher	Preparing Deacon	Elder
April 26	Julie Sonnenberg	Pam Ferdig	Julie Sonnenberg
May 3	Della Williams	Marcia Lulf	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.



04/26 Jace Corman

04/30 Jackson Carson

04/30 Madison Carson

05/02 Paige Holtz

**HAPPY Anniversary**

05/01 Geoff & Shaye

Champ-Correll

### 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.