

FCC CONNECTIONS

Under the Fig Tree ~

When I was teaching on Revelation, at the time I said it was not meant to be read literally but metaphorically, allegorically and spiritually; other ways of proclaiming truth.

Symbolic truth is still truth. Gaining insight into symbolic truth is important, but it does not mean that many of the things that are reported as historical events in books, such as Revelation and the Old Testament works like Ezekiel are not going to happen.

Currently, we are seeing many of the signs of the end time. Across the globe the world is burning. There are floods, as well as fires, earthquakes, volcanic action, fierce storms and severe drought. In the past couple of days, a very powerful typhoon hit China, an earthquake took many lives in Colombia, serious shortages of water in Puerto Rico and other places around the world and a volcano erupted in southern Italy. Scientists are concerned about the San Andreas fault in California.

The four Horsemen of the apocalypse are on the horizon. Contaminates have affected our foods, and thousands of people have gotten seriously ill, and some of them have died. Pestilence seems to be on the increase. The conquering spirit is evident in parts of the world. There is serious moral collapse of Western culture.

I don't write these things to frighten you. But you see the same things as I do and I know you've had to have asked, "Is this the end of the world?" Scripture tells us no one will know the day or the hour. I can't say that we should be heading for the mountains hiding in caves and finding ways to cover ourselves as the cosmos collapses. I'm not ready to hang a sign-board around my neck, saying the end is near. (I did see a cartoon the other day where a man with long hair and a white robe had a sign board, who crossed out the word near and wrote the word here.) The fact is, I want us to be anything but frightened.

What else can we be? Prayerful comes to mind. If we think of these things as the birth pangs of the Genesis of God's end time and God's work toward the advent of his everlasting kingdom, we can be encouraged and hopeful. I believe God is great, powerful and loving. We can take hope and confidence in this. We can pray for His peace in our hearts if not in our world. We can come alive with the urgency to spread the gospel and call people from a world that is dying and can no longer be the future, to the kingdom that is present in the midst of all of this chaos and confusion and will be the eternal kingdom.



Worship August 16, 2026

Welcome
Prayer & Lord's Prayer
Praise Song- "Always"
Scriptures: Ephesians 3:16-19;
James 4:1-6
Sermon: *What Do People Really Want*
Pastor Lew Champ
Worship Song- "Let My Words Be Few"
Intercessory Prayers
Communion Song- "Heart of the Father"
Eucharist
Thanksgiving Prayer
Offering
Doxology
Announcements
Closing Song- "Rise Up"
Benediction





Lectionary Readings

12th Sunday After Pentecost

August 16, 2026

Genesis 45:1-15

Psalms 133

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

Psalms 67

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

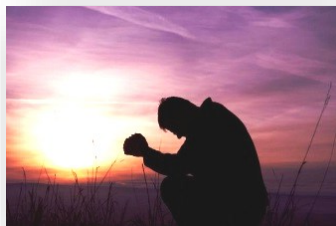
Matthew 15:(10-20), 21-28

This Sunday, August 16

Scriptures: Ephesians
3:16-19; James 4:1-6
Sermon: What Do People
Really Want
Pastor Lew Champ



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



NEW CONCERNS -

Phil Holland was back to work last week, but has to wear a wrist brace and welding glove to protect his arm, but he's glad to be back!

Jeremy was stabbed in the hand by a high schooler, but the wound is doing ok.

Shaye Champ-Correll was back in the hospital again with the same drop in cortisol and sodium levels when she returned home. They get dangerously low. Linda was with the kids over the weekend. She got to come home Sunday evening. Meanwhile Geoff got a promotion at the Boulder Pizza place he works at to Manager, so he needs to be gone some more. The new position is a blessing but they really need to get Shaye stabilized so she can stay home. Please continue prayers.

Ron Tatman, Linda Champ's brother, will be having open heart surgery. The surgery is yet to be scheduled.

Spencer Green, Reverend at Christ United Methodist Church, has been in the hospital with health issues.

CANCER -

Please pray for all those fighting cancer.

Julia Chen Chou, **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.

WORLD -

The fires & floods in our state and across America.

The loss of life in China and Venezuela.

Those affected by tornadoes and strong winds, loss of property and crops.

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

GRIEF -

John had to give up his dog, who was too large for the apartment building. He is grieving.

Jerry, **Jim McBride's** brother, passed away on 07/21. Please keep Jim in your prayers, it was just 9 months ago he lost his wife.

JOYS -

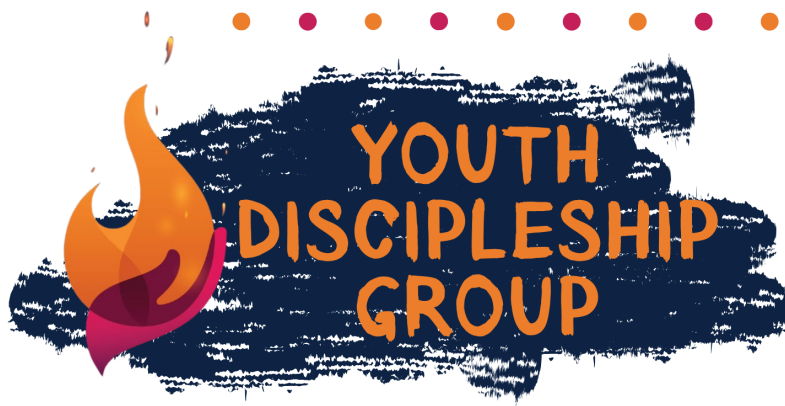
Chris & Linda Merkl will be here for Worship on Sunday August 16th. They plan on dining here in Sterling before they head back to Denver and are hoping all those who can will join them!

CONTINUING PRAYERS -

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

God is our refuge and strength,
always ready to help in times of trouble.

Psalms 46:1



Starting Monday, August 24th Lew will start a youth group for Elementary aged youth. We will meet from 10-12 on Mondays. More information in future Newsletters.



Sunday, August 30, 2026

Helping Hands Offering

August 30th is the 5th Sunday of the month which means we will be collecting offerings for our Helping Hands Fund.



We're collecting pasta to help support the Family Resource Center! Every box or package donated is a simple way to help provide meals and support to local families in need.

Thank you all for your generous hearts and for helping us make a difference in our community! Your kindness truly adds up and means so much.



Please Remember:

All newsletter items need to be emailed, text, voicemail or turned into Bobbie's mailbox (located in the church library) by 5:00pm Wednesday evenings.

SERVING SCHEDULE

Date	Usher	Preparing Deacon	Elder
August 16	Tammy Sonnenberg	Elissa Karg	Sam Sonnenberg
August 23	Tammy Sonnenberg	Elissa Karg	Bill McReynolds

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.



08/17 Nova Barber

08/18 Della Williams

08/19 Maxine McFarland

HAPPY Anniversary

08/17 A.J. & Sarah

Sonnenberg

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