

October 4, 2026



Around the Table

Stories, Updates, and Life at First Christian Church
Pull up a chair . . .

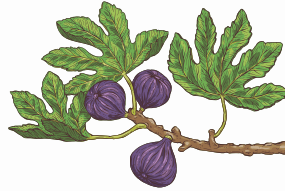
Under the Fig Tree ~

By Gabe Friedman - Israeli Times March 11, 2015

I grew up 8 miles from Dodger Stadium as the crow flies. All of my high school friends were baseball fans like me. We bled Dodger blue, and so we spent a lot of our free time together over at Chavez Ravine in the late 1960's and early 1970's. I remember being at a Dodger game one evening with a Jewish family sitting directly in front of us. When we all stood up to sing the National Anthem, removing our baseball caps, I was startled to see that when the boys in the family in front of us removed their Dodger caps, that underneath them, still on their heads, were their yarmulkes ("kippah" in Hebrew).

"The practice of wearing a yarmule (kippah in Hebrew) is an ancient tradition that has its roots as a 'middas chasiddus' (an act of piety) before becoming accepted as normative practice for Jewish men and boys. There are a number of references to the practice in the Talmud. One of these is Rav Huna the son of Rav Yehoshua, who would not walk four cubits (about six feet) with his head uncovered as a reminder that God's Presence is always above us (Kiddushin 31a). The word 'yarmulke' actually comes from the Aramaic 'yarei Malka' - to have 'reverence for the King.'"

Let me go on record as saying that I really like this idea. I like the idea of being visibly and tangibly reminded that we - all of us - live our lives under the canopy of heaven, always in the view of a Holy God ("Coram Deo" - "in the presence of, or before the face of, God"), personally responsible for and responsive to the moral and spiritual will of God as it has been revealed and preserved for us by the witness of Holy Scripture.



The theologian David Wells laments what he calls the "weightlessness" of God in the lives of most Christians these days. We say we believe in Him, but He isn't much of a factor in what we say and do. The God of most Christians today is "skinny" David Wells says, peripheral. He asks Christians two questions to assess the weight of their beliefs: (1) "Does God ever intervene in life?" - (2) "Does God ever make moral judgements about what we say and do?" Christians who answer "yes" to these questions usually have a "hands-on" understanding of God. They believe in a God who is really there and who is fully involved in their life decisions and actions, but Christians who answer "no" to these questions have an absent God who "keeps His moral thoughts to Himself." The late Joseph Cardinal Bernardin (1928 - 1996), the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Chicago from 1982 until his death in 1996, got at this same thing by frequently asking in his writings and speeches - "In an age when we can do almost anything we want, how do we decide what we ought to do, and what we should never do?"

The yarmulkes of my Jewish friends are an answer. The coverings on their heads are symbols of their submission to the authority of God. They are their announcement to the world that they are trying to live their lives in response to and as a reflection of the authority of God. We all need yarmulkes. We all need to give God weight in our thinking, acting, and deciding.

Sunday Worship

October 4, 2026

Welcome
Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Praise Song- "Holding On (Praise God)"

Scripture: John 6:25-51
Message: "Over My Dead Body"
Matt Brekel

Worship Song- "Let My Words Be Few"

Intercessory Prayers

Communion Song- "Here With Me"
Eucharist

Thanksgiving Prayer
Offering
Doxology

Announcements

Closing Song- "Rise Up"
Benediction



Lectioary Readings

19th Sunday after Pentecost

October 4, 2026

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Psalms 19; Isaiah 5:1-7

Psalms 80:7-15

Philippians 3:4b-14

Matthew 21:33-46

This Sunday October 4

Scripture: John 6:25-51

Message: "Over My
Dead Body"

Matt Brekel



Prayer Intercessors

Meet every
Sunday morning
at 9:00 AM

Prayer Concerns

NEW CONCERNS -

Pastor Lew Champ is doing pretty well, still sore in his neck area and with the brace. He isn't supposed to move his head much at all. Lew has relief in his arm and fingers, and feeling his fingers, which he hasn't for quite some time!

Phil Holland had surgery on 9/30, on his elbow. He is home and doing well.

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

Wanda Vallejos is still waiting on results from x-ray, but has removed the support from around her hand and is doing better.

Margie Ellis, Carla's aunt (88), has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

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

Cury Butard, Phil Holland's fellow CDOT worker, is in Greeley hospital with a brain bleed.

Emily Lovell as she travels to Iceland.

Ron Tatman, Linda Champ's brother, had a triple bypass and a valve replacement on 9/22.

Julie Chen Chou - please continue prayers for healing, strength and appetite!

DEMENTIA & ALZHEIMER'S -

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

OUR CHURCH -

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

They cried out to God during the battle, and he answered their prayer because they trusted in him.

1 Chronicles 5:20

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

JOYS -

Tim and Tammy are now on grandchild #7! Cody & Alissa welcomed Pierce Allen to their family on 9/16. Both mom and baby are doing wonderful!

CONTINUING PRAYERS -

Neil & Jessica Lovell
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)



Bobbie will be
on vacation
October 16-25.

There will not
a newsletter
sent out for
October 25.

Links From Sunday



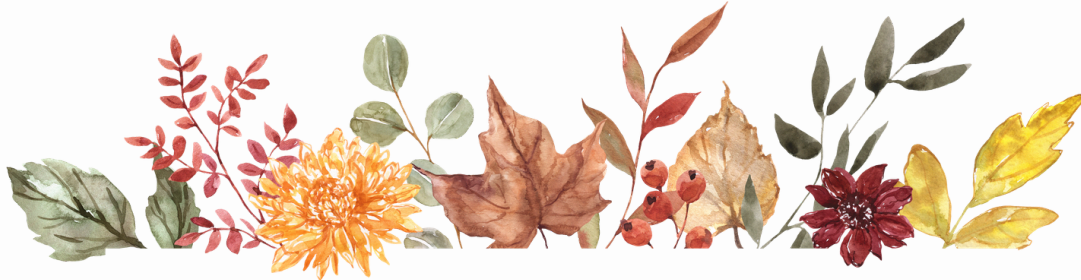
Full Sunday Service

Available on Facebook for a few weeks



Sermon ONLY

Available on YouTube



GIVE *Thanks* TO THE *Lord* FOR *Pastor Lew*

Please join us for a
Potluck Luncheon
to honor Lew & Linda

Please bring a Main
Dish to share & a
salad or vegetable



Table service,
drinks & dessert
will be provided



Serving Schedule

Date	Usher	Preparing Deacon	Elder
10/4	Della Williams	Marcia Lulf	Mark Pelton
10/11	Della Williams	Marcia Lulf	Nena 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.



10/6 Nickolette Rodriguez
10/10 DJ Newth



10/2 Lynn & Sue Lovell

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](https://www.youtube.com/FCC100BroadwaySterlingCO)

World Communion Sunday Greetings from Global Ministries' Co-Executives

published on Sep 29, 2026

Grace and peace to you on World Communion Sunday.

On this day, Christians around the world gather at the Table of the Lord. Across continents and cultures, in many languages and traditions, we share one bread and one cup. World Communion Sunday reminds us that our faith is larger than any one nation, denomination, or culture. Through Christ, we are woven together into one body and called to bear witness to God's love in the world.

This year is especially meaningful as we celebrate thirty years of Global Ministries, the shared mission partnership of Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ. For three decades, our churches have walked together alongside partners around the globe, building relationships rooted in mutuality, prayer, justice, and hope. Through this partnership, we have learned that mission is not something we do for others, but something we share as members of God's beloved community.

The table we gather around today is a visible sign of that shared calling. As we break bread together, we are united with siblings in Christ across the world, many of whom face challenges very different from our own and yet proclaim the same good news. Their faith strengthens our faith. Their hopes become our hopes. Their prayers become our prayers.

As you celebrate World Communion Sunday, may you be reminded that you are part of a global family bound together by Christ's love. May this day deepen your sense of connection to the worldwide church and renew your commitment to God's work of peace with justice, compassion, and reconciliation.

May the bread you receive nourish your spirit. May the cup you share renew your hope. And may the grace of Christ strengthen you to be a blessing in your community and in the world.

Grace and peace,
Rev. Dr. LaMarco Cable
President and CEO of Disciples Overseas Ministries
Co-Executive of Global Ministries
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Rev. Shari Prestemon
Associate General Minister
Co-Executive, Global Ministries
United Church of Christ

