



Come  
And  
See!

## e-Echoes

*The weekly e-newsletter of the First Christian Church of Sterling*

**May 27, 2020**

### **This Week in Worship...**

Our focus for this Pentecost Sunday,  
May 31st,  
will be  
John 7:37-39  
(This lesson is for use at home.)

FCC of Sterling  
*Celebrating over 50 Years*  
*On the Hill*  
Come and see!

There will be no services or events this week at  
FCC. Please continue to be safe! Stay home!

\*Look for Lori's note on page #4 and Zack's  
mid-week meditation on page #5.

**Join us this weekend  
for worship!**

No Sunday School

No Sunday Morning  
Worship

## A Message from the Minister...

Good morning, afternoon, or night,  
Whenever you may be reading this, I hope your day has been well and you are finding joy in your day! Well, we have seen a few beautiful days with great weather lately! I for one have been excited for this time for a while now. We have been waiting for the time when we can get our kids outside and run them around, and we are so happy that it has finally gotten warm enough to do that. I pray that everyone is finding time to get outside and enjoy the fresh air and sunshine. It can do us a lot of good. Spiritually, there is something special about nature and outside. We should remember that God created all of this beauty around us and that we are part of that creation. We should remember that we have been called to care for and love this creation. Therefore, getting outside and reconnecting with nature is a very spiritual way for us to connect with God. This may be cliché, but I believe looking outside and trying to find God is a great exercise. Many of you may remember participating in exercises like this growing up, I know I did, but they are meaningful if you give them the chance. Whether it be in a formation of clouds, the way the leaves and branches come together, or in the peaceful munching of a baby rabbit, there is God in the things around us. I know things are difficult in this time of distancing, but that doesn't mean we should neglect our relationship with God, nor our relationship with the larger world around us. Through our own disciplines we can keep our faith strong, keep our spirit nourished, and keep doing all of the things that Christ has called on us to do. Keep strong my friends, have faith, and keep moving forward.

**Blessings, Pastor Zack**

## Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

<sup>24</sup>O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. <sup>25</sup>Yonder is the sea, great and wide, creeping things innumerable are there, living things both small and great. <sup>26</sup>There go the ships, and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it. <sup>27</sup>These all look to you to give them their food in due season; <sup>28</sup>when you give to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things. <sup>29</sup>When you hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust. <sup>30</sup>When you send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the ground. <sup>31</sup>May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord rejoice in his works— <sup>32</sup>who looks on the earth and it trembles, who touches the mountains and they smoke. <sup>33</sup>I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being. <sup>34</sup>May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the Lord. <sup>35</sup>Let sinners be consumed from the earth, and let the wicked be no more. Bless the Lord, O my soul. Praise the Lord!

(Psalm for May 31, 2020)

pray without ceasing

1 Thessalonians 5:17



## **News from the Hill**

In our prayers this week, we lift up Ann Baldwin, Laureen Little, Opal Deets, Flora Jo Larson, Kaitlyn Marshang, Sue Clark, and Rich Willhite.

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## **Kidz Night Out**

**Postponed until further notice!**

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## **FISH Sunday** **TBA**

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## **Loaves & Fishes** **TBA**

### **1 Corinthians 12:3b-13**

<sup>3</sup>Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit. <sup>4</sup>Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; <sup>5</sup>and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; <sup>6</sup>and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. <sup>7</sup>To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. <sup>8</sup>To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup>to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, <sup>10</sup>to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup>All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

<sup>12</sup>For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup>For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

(Lectionary Lesson for May 31st)

# Calendar of Events

Sunday, May 31

- Pentecost Sunday

All services and activities here at FCC of Sterling have been canceled. Pray for the time we can be back together.

Unite Service Camp has been canceled for this year.

Community VBS will be meeting online this summer. Watch for details.

Church camps have been pushed back and some have been canceled. Contact Pastor Zack for details.

## Serving on Sunday (No Services)

Liturgist:  
Elders:  
Deacons:  
Preparers:  
Acolytes:  
Nursery:  
No PB&J Mission

## Facts and Figures

Attendance this weekend: No services were held at the church.

Received this week: \$1440.00

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Thank you for all your prayers and cards during my recent illness. I am not totally recovered yet but almost. I returned to work full-time today and could not have come this far without all your kind thoughts and well-wishes.

Kermit Reins

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Hello people, just wanted to quickly type a short note for you. The Board met recently and talked a lot about church reopening, when the time is right, and what that means. The Reopening Committee has formed and will guide us through the process of safely coming back to the building. In the meantime, please continue to watch on Facebook, Pastor Zacks sermons. And please continue to be faithful in your offerings. We are remaining stable on our finances, but as you know, this can change quickly because of unseen or unexpected circumstances. And boy, is this world full of surprises right now! I want to praise Pastor Zack and his crew on quickly adapting to the change of not meeting in person for church. This is all new for him too. And he has done an amazing job. I found out VBS will be online this summer. I'm glad that the people in charge recognize our youth are needing this program to continue. Take care of yourselves, and I hope we can see each other soon, but remember, church is not just a building.

Thanks for reading, Lori

**First Christian Church of Sterling**

(Disciples of Christ)

3400 6<sup>th</sup> Ave

Sterling, IL 61081

815.625.6851

[www.fccofsterling.com](http://www.fccofsterling.com)

email:

[office@firstchristianchurchofsterling.org](mailto:office@firstchristianchurchofsterling.org)

Pastor Zack Mapes

*Minister*

Tim Fischbach

*Director of Music and*

*Church Administrator*

## **Mid-Week Meditation**

This week's mid-week meditation is coming to you through the e-echoes. It will be a scripture and some guided questions to help you reflect on that passage. I hope everyone finds time to engage with this!

### **Romans 12: 9-16b**

- <sup>9</sup> Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good;
- <sup>10</sup> love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor.
- <sup>11</sup> Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord.
- <sup>12</sup> Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.
- <sup>13</sup> Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.
- <sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.
- <sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.
- <sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are.

### **Questions:**

1. Paul says to let love be genuine. What would you consider genuine love to look like?
2. How can we relate this type of love to God's love? God loved us even when we were strangers, by sending us Jesus. Do we love the strangers in our lives?
3. What do you think it means to love one another with mutual affection?
4. What about outdo one another in showing honor?
5. I could go on, but I would rather just turn you to look at each of the remaining verses, one by one, and think about what they mean to you. Look up what others have said about these verses, and see if what you came up with is the same or different as to what others came up with.