

First Christian Reformed Church

801 15th Ave

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***Growing Closer to God
Through Service & Love***

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First CRC Fulton

July 20, 2025 - 9:00am

Nehemiah Part 2: Perseverance with God's Faithful Help

We Gather in Praise and Worship

Prelude: Piano

Welcome: Pastor Michael

Call To Worship: From Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 27&28

Leader: What do you understand by the providence of God?

All: The Almighty and ever-present power of God by which God upholds, as with his hand,

Leader: Heaven and earth and all creatures, and so rules them that leaf and blade, rain and drought, fruitful and lean years, food and drink, health and sickness, prosperity and poverty all things,

All: In fact, come to us not by chance but by his fatherly hand.

Leader: How does the knowledge of God's creation and providence help us?

All: We can be patient when things go against us, thankful when things go well,

Leader: and for the future we can have good confidence in our faithful God and Father that nothing in creation will separate us from his love.

All: For all creatures are so completely in God's hand that without his will they can neither move nor be moved.

God's Greeting: Pastor Michael

Mutual Greeting:

Worship Through Song:

Praise

How Firm a Foundation

He Leadeth Me

Announcements:

Congregational Prayer:

Offering: General Fund & Faith Promise

Worship Through Song:

The Church's One Foundation

By Faith

The Lord's My Shepherd

We Prepare For & Hear God's Word

Scripture: Nehemiah 3:1-2, 12

¹Eliashib the high priest and his fellow priests went to work and rebuilt the Sheep Gate. They dedicated it and set its doors in place, building as far as the Tower of the Hundred, which they dedicated, and as far as the Tower of Hananel.

²The men of Jericho built the adjoining section, and Zakkur son of Imri built next to them.

¹²Shallum son of Hallohesh, ruler of a half-district of Jerusalem, repaired the next section with the help of his daughters.

Nehemiah 4:1-2, 7-11, 13-18

¹When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became angry and was greatly incensed. He ridiculed the Jews, ²and in the presence of his associates and the army of Samaria, he said, "What are those feeble Jews doing? Will they restore their wall? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they finish in a day? Can they bring the stones back to life from those heaps of rubble—burned as they are?"

⁷But when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites and the people of Ashdod heard that the repairs to Jerusalem's walls had gone ahead and that the gaps were being closed, they were very angry. ⁸They all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and stir up trouble against it. ⁹But we prayed to our God and posted a guard day and night to meet this threat.

¹⁰Meanwhile, the people in Judah said, “The strength of the laborers is giving out, and there is so much rubble that we cannot rebuild the wall.”

¹¹Also our enemies said, “Before they know it or see us, we will be right there among them and will kill them and put an end to the work.”

¹³Therefore I stationed some of the people behind the lowest points of the wall at the exposed places, posting them by families, with their swords, spears and bows. ¹⁴After I looked things over, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, “Don’t be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your families, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes.”

¹⁵When our enemies heard that we were aware of their plot and that God had frustrated it, we all returned to the wall, each to our own work.

¹⁶From that day on, half of my men did the work, while the other half were equipped with spears, shields, bows and armor. The officers posted themselves behind all the people of Judah ¹⁷who were building the wall. Those who carried materials did their work with one hand and held a weapon in the other, ¹⁸and each of the builders wore his sword at his side as he worked. But the man who sounded the trumpet stayed with me.

Nehemiah 5:1-8

¹Now the men and their wives raised a great outcry against their fellow Jews. ²Some were saying, “We and our sons and daughters are numerous; in order for us to eat and stay alive, we must get grain.”

³Others were saying, “We are mortgaging our fields, our vineyards and our homes to get grain during the famine.”

⁴Still others were saying, “We have had to borrow money to pay the king’s tax on our fields and vineyards. ⁵Although we are of the same flesh and blood as our fellow Jews and

though our children are as good as theirs, yet we have to subject our sons and daughters to slavery. Some of our daughters have already been enslaved, but we are powerless, because our fields and our vineyards belong to others.”

⁶When I heard their outcry and these charges, I was very angry. ⁷I pondered them in my mind and then accused the nobles and officials. I told them, “You are charging your own people interest!” So I called together a large meeting to deal with them ⁸and said: “As far as possible, we have bought back our fellow Jews who were sold to the Gentiles. Now you are selling your own people, only for them to be sold back to us!” They kept quiet, because they could find nothing to say.
Nehemiah 6:15-16

¹⁵So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of Elul, in fifty-two days.

¹⁶When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations were afraid and lost their self-confidence, because they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God.

Sermon: Nehemiah Part 2: Perseverance with God’s Faithful Help - Pastor Michael

WE DEPART WITH GOD’S BLESSING

Blessing: Pastor Michael

Parting Song: To God be the Glory

Announcements

Song Request Sunday will be August 3rd. Please place your requests in the basket on the back table.

Fulton Night Out- August 12th-Stay tuned for more details!

Remember in prayer our members in care facilities or homebound: Albert W., Mary M., Joe L.

Please send prayer requests to mhooke01@gmail.com or call 847-513-2809.

Please send *all other* bulletin information to
FirstCRCFulton@live.com by Thursday at 7:00pm.

July Birthdays

1 Albert Wiebenga	17 Bo Lown
2 Paul Thompson	17 David Dykstra
4 Dick Huizenga	17 Steve Huisenga
6 Jessica Russell	25 Jonah Lutz
15 Walker Vander Eide	28 Logan Moore
	29 Graicie James

July Anniversaries

1 Seth & Janelle Bradley	12 Bruce & Lori Bielema
	20 Eric & Sara Burns

Deacons' News

Offerings Received 7/13/25:	<u>General Fund</u>
	Budget: \$2,180.00
Ministry Shares: \$215.00	Received: <u>\$1,461.00</u>
	Under: \$719.00

Offerings Today: General Fund & Faith Promise

Offerings 7/27/25: General Fund & UCSB

Please place your offering in the plates as they are passed.

CRC News

Thrive Faith Formation Tip – Eugene Peterson paraphrased part of 1 Corinthians 12 in The Message by saying, “Each person is given something to do that shows who God is: Everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits. All kinds of things are handed out by the Spirit, and to all kinds of people! The variety is wonderful...” Think of a family member or friend. Have a discussion, write a note, or draw a picture for them about how you have seen God work through them. Brought to you by Thrive: crcna.org/Thrive

Community News

Anticipation Ministries will be on the outdoor stage at Spring Valley Reformed Church, 10960 Spring Valley Road, Fulton

IL, on Sunday, July 20th at 6:00 PM! Come and join us for an evening of praise and worship. A free-will offering will be taken. In case of inclement weather, the concert will be moved indoors. Anticipation Ministries is a family-based Southern Gospel group rooted in the small town of Hannibal, Missouri, with a big heart for ministry. What started as a simple invitation to sing at a local fair in 2007 has grown into a thriving ministry committed to sharing the hope of Jesus Christ through powerful music and personal testimony. With over 15 years of service, Anticipation continues to travel across the Midwest, touching lives and spreading the Good News one song at a time.

Divinity Trio will be on the outdoor stage at Spring Valley Reformed Church, 10960 Spring Valley Road, Fulton IL, on Sunday, July 27th at 6:00 PM! We will be serving Root Beer Floats after the concert! Come and join us for an evening of praise and worship. A free-will offering will be taken. In case of inclement weather, the concert will be moved indoors. Since 2019 Divinity Trio has been touring, singing and promoting the gospel of Jesus Christ through song. Driven by a common goal and purpose, to deliver quality Music and a genuine worship experience, Divinity Trio is out to share the love of Christ. Our goal is to reach the lost encourage the believer and honor God in all we do. Divinity Trio has achieved some lifelong dreams, the latest of which are, releasing multiple songs that have broken the top 80 on the singing news charts, highlighted by two Main Stage appearances at the National Quartet Convention in 2021 and 2023. The opportunity to sing for fun and minister with conviction are still what drives us to do what we do.

Paul’s Missionary Journeys in Greece - (October 13 - 24, 2025) Travel by motor coach (6 days) and cruise ship (4 days) to sites connected with Paul’s second and third missionary journeys, as well as visit other major sites of biblical, archaeological, and cultural interest. Jeff Weima, professor at Calvin Theological Seminary and leading Pauline scholar, hosts this inspirational tour. For more information, contact Dr. Weima at 616-328-3110 or weimje@calvinseminary.edu.

Weekly Calendar		
Today	Sunday Worship	9:00 am

	July 20th	July 27 th
Recorder & Sound	Joe V.	David D.
Nursery Attendant	Amy D.	Alida H.
Snack Provider	Lynell B.	Amy D.
Server	Lynell B.	Amy D.