

Scripture Lessons:

John 21: 15-19

¹⁵ When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.” ¹⁶ A second time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Tend my sheep.” ¹⁷ He said to him the third time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. ¹⁸ Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.” ¹⁹ (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, “Follow me.”

1 Corinthians 13

¹ If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴ Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶ it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. ⁷ It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸ Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. ⁹ For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; ¹⁰ but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. ¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. ¹² For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³ And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Stewardship Message

We joined the FCCOL at the beginning of 2019. We came to know of this church partly because of our musical connections (We are both musicians) and we met Simon Holt, who as the church's music director, had asked us to perform here before we became members. We also met Laura through a friend of ours, Sara Oftner-Seals, who went to Divinity School with Laura. We met for coffee one day, and here we are!

Ultimately, what led us to join the church, however, was all the social initiatives that FCCOL has been committed to over the years. When we were looking for a church, we asked ourselves what qualities do we want in our spiritual home? We sought a community of faith that not only preached the words of the gospel but also took actions that reflected our faith. We wanted to be in a faith community where the church fostered a culture for people to come together no matter their background, skin color or whom they chose to love.

We also enjoy the challenging messages Steve, Laura and Carleen deliver. Because to us, being a person of faith is not only about finding a comfortable spiritual spot to rest in, but also to be challenged towards growth, and hopefully to find a better path forward.

Matt and I have also been lucky to share our music in various church services, have volunteered at the Saturday food pantry, and currently, Matt is serving on the Board of Missions. We also look forward to the day when the White Elephant Sale can be safely resumed!

Here at FCCOL, we have found a faith family that accepts us for who we are and allows our young child to grow into whoever she wishes to be.

-Cara Cheung and Matt Muehl-Miller