



## NOVEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

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Text FCCTextMe to  
(844) 467-1299

### *Weekly Schedule*

**Worship Service: Sun. 10:15am**  
Hybrid Worship in Person &  
Streamed via Zoom and Facebook Live  
<https://www.fcclc.org/worship>

**Contemplative Worship Service**  
1st Sunday of the month, 6:30pm  
In-person only at this time.

**Social Hours: Wed. 6:30pm**  
1st Wed: Crafters Group  
3rd Wed: Adult Education Group

**Spiritual Practices: Thu. 9:00am**  
Every Thursday on Zoom  
Some practices we do regularly:  
Lectio Divina, Centering Prayer, Christian  
Meditation, Bible Journaling, Scripture  
Doodling, Book Discussion, and more!

## *Announcements*

- » We have lifted all the Covid restrictions. The CDC has removed the Covid restrictions and rates of infection are low in the area. This means we do not require or request persons wear masks. It is up to your discretion if you wish to wear a mask. We are also returning to indoor coffee hour and potlucks.
- » To limit the length of the newsletter, the FCC Board Meeting Minutes are published as a separate document, available at <https://www.fcclc.org/community/>

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# WORSHIP COVENANT

In order to ensure that worship is a safe space for everyone who wants to return, we ask that you covenant with us to abide by the following safety guidelines:

- » While you may choose to wear a mask, they are no longer required or requested by FCC at this time. We may adjust this decision in the future based on the numbers.
- » Worship leaders, musicians, and speakers are strongly encouraged to be vaccinated.
- » We ask that you wear your name tag or a disposable name tag, available by the front doors.
- » Please maintain a six-foot distance between you and other members at all times when indoors.
- » When you enter, please take a bulletin, then find a spot to sit.
- » The Communion bread and wine are served row by row. Please accept the elements and pass the trays to your neighbor.
- » After the final hymn please make your way outside, taking your bulletin and any trash with you. There will be trash cans by the sanctuary doors

## NOTES

This covenant will change as recommended safety measures in our county change. We will communicate any changes through email blasts and in person announcements.

The livestream recording begins at 10:10 am. At that time, any sounds above a whisper may be heard on the livestream. Anyone who gathers near the front of the sanctuary may be visible on camera.

If you have any questions about the covenant, please contact Rev. Patrick..



# CALENDAR

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE

## BIRTHDAYS

Sun.	10:15 am	First Christian Church Worship
	10:15 am	St. John's Catholic Church Worship
Mon.	12:00 pm	Al-Anon Lunch Bunch (Parlor)
	6:30 pm	Celestial Sounds (Sanctuary)
Tue.	6:30 pm	Singing Out Las Cruces (Sanctuary)
Wed.	6:30 pm	Mesilla Valley Swing (Sanctuary)
Thu.	9:00 am	Spiritual Practices/Book Club (Zoom)
-(1st, 3rd)	6:30pm	Singing Out Las Cruces (Sanctuary)
Fri.	12:00 pm	Al-Anon (Parlor)
	6:00 pm	New World Drummers / Dancers
Sat.	1:00pm	HIV/AIDS Food Bank

**11/02**  
Charlie Weathers

**11/03**  
Zanté Garcia

**11/22**  
Karen Holmes

## SPECIAL SERVICES

11/03	6:30 pm	Contemplative Worship (Chapel)
11/03	10:15 am	Monthly Cake Celebration
11/17	10:15 am	Church Family Potluck

## SOCIAL GROUPS

11/06	6:30 pm	Crafters Group
11/20	11:30 am	Brown Bag Lunch

## EVENTS

11/01	5:30 pm	Food Pantry Support Group
11/15	5:30 pm	Food Pantry Support Group
11/16	10:00 am	Weaving for Justice Sale
11/17	3:30 pm	Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims - Parking Lot
11/24	2:00 pm	Celestial Sounds Concert

## MEETINGS

11/16	10:00 am	FCC Board Meeting
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## *ELDERS & WORSHIP LEADERS*

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***Sunday, Nov. 3    10:15 am***

**Leader:** Eric Hays-Strom  
**Offering:** Melissa McKenzie-Shaw  
**Communion:** Zanté Garcia

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***Sunday, Nov. 10    10:15 am***

**Leader:** Zanté Garcia  
**Offering:** Paul Cook  
**Communion:** Melissa McKenzie-Shaw

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***Sunday, Nov. 17    10:15 am***

**Leader:** Melissa McKenzie-Shaw  
**Offering:** Debby Johnson  
**Communion:** Paul Cook

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***Sunday, Nov. 24    10:15 am***

**Leader:** Eric Hays-Strom  
**Offering:** Melissa McKenzie-Shaw  
**Communion:** Debby Johnson

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***Sunday, Dec. 1    10:15 am***

**Leader:** Sue Bogart  
**Offering:** Debby Johnson  
**Communion:** Melissa McKenzie-Shaw

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***Sunday, Dec. 8    10:15 am***

**Leader:** Melody Burns  
**Offering:** Deb Cook  
**Communion:** Scott Hays-Strom

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***Sunday, Dec. 15    10:15 am***

**Leader:** Jeanne Knotts  
**Offering:** Esther Devall  
**Communion:** Deb Cook

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***Sunday, Dec. 22    10:15 am***

**Leader:** Deb Cook  
**Offering:** Paul Cook  
**Communion:** Esther Devall

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***Sunday, Dec. 24    6:30 pm***

**Leader:** TBD  
**Offering:** TBD  
**Communion:** TBD

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***Sunday, Dec. 29    10:15 am***

**Leader:** Melissa McKenzie-Shaw  
**Offering:** Zanté Garcia  
**Communion:** Paul Cook

# NEWS & LETTERS

## *PASTOR'S LETTER*

*Rev. Patrick Crocker*

“To Yahweh belong the earth and all it contains, the world and all who live there;”  
Psalm 24:1 (NJB)

What seasons of the soul do we feel? How do we respond to the seasons?

At the October farmers' market event for the church, we were approached by a man who asked what our congregation's position on voting was. I responded that we are strongly in favor of it. Since this didn't seem to meet the man's concerns, I further stated that we don't tell people how to vote, but we encourage each person to engage in the life of the community by voting the values held dear. His response was interesting: “If you don't tell people how to vote, they might vote in a way that will make it hard for the church to be \*allowed\* to gather for worship!” I tilted my head (like a dog trying to understand any English word other than “treat”) and he went on his way. And I still don't know which way he was hoping I'd tell everyone to vote.

Having had some time to reflect on the encounter (and recognizing that by the time these words are read, we will be closer to knowing the results of such a fraught election), I can respond with a bit more breath, intention and, hopefully, wisdom.

I prefer to talk about values rather than parties because parties and individual politicians can change minds and positions. (And I have to applaud people who change their minds when they are presented with new information.) I also prefer to talk about how to think, rather than what to think. There's also the fact that I prefer to trust that when we affirm our values as a faith community, we are intelligent enough to then choose leaders who live out those values.

I admit that it can be difficult to have enough information to make good decisions (and that we must first have enough information to discern good sources of information). There are also times when leaders who were chosen in good faith make poor decisions.

Regardless of how voting night turns out (and how long it takes for it to turn out), there will be joy, grief, satisfaction, disappointment, hope, and fear in our communities. It is our call as members of a community of faith, and perhaps more importantly as members of a community of \*faithfulness\*, to pray and work for frustration and grief

to be expressed creatively rather than violently, for a clean heart to be recreated within the soul of all peoples, for us to work toward putting the “unity” back into “community.” Voting our values is important; of greater importance is living our values.

“[W]hile we are alive, we are living for the Lord, and when we die, we die for the Lord: and so, alive or dead, we belong to the Lord.” Romans 14:8 (NJB)

Shalom,  
Patrick

If you’d like to have a pastoral visit or chat on the phone, you’re welcome to call/text me at (575).551.1717 or email me at [Rev.Patrick.Crocker@gmail.com](mailto:Rev.Patrick.Crocker@gmail.com).

## *Notes*

Since 4th Wednesday of November is the evening before Thanksgiving and 4th Wednesday of December is Christmas Day, our 4th Wednesday Discussion Group will be on hiatus until January.

### Scriptures for October

- » November 3 - Revelation 21:1-6a (All Saints’ Remembrance)
- » November 10 - Mark 12:38-44
- » November 17 – Mark 13:1-8
- » November 24 – John 18:33-37 (Reign of Christ)

# COMMUNITY

## *FAITH ACTION COMMITTEE*

*Ralph Holmes*

During November the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) offers you an opportunity give to their Thanksgiving Offering.

The Thanksgiving Offering benefits the Colleges, Universities, Seminaries, and Divinity Houses affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Higher education has been an important focus for Disciples since the very beginning of the movement. Throughout our history, Disciples have founded institutions of higher learning to educate students and form leaders to make a difference in the world. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is still committed to higher education. Your gift to the Thanksgiving Offering helps support the education of thousands of students at our fifteen colleges and universities as well as our seven seminaries and divinity houses.

The Colleges and Universities of the Christian Church provide quality education through classes offered by some of the nation's top undergraduate and graduate faculty. Many of the campuses are comprised of state-of-the-art facilities, offer diverse degree programs, include dynamic student life activities, offer exciting athletics programs, and much more. The Thanksgiving offering supports everything from scholarships to religious life offices, to faculty growth and development. By giving to the Thanksgiving Offering, you are helping our institutions invest in students as they prepare themselves to become leaders.

The Thanksgiving Offering also provides scholarship and support for our theological education institutions. Each of our seminaries and divinity houses is committed to educating and forming Christian leaders for church and society. Generations of pastors, community leaders, and agents of social transformation have been educated at our theological institutions. They have flourished and made a difference in the world, thanks to gifts from Disciples congregations and individuals throughout the ages. These institutions continue to prepare leaders for the present age and the age to come.

Supporting our students is more important than ever. Scholarship requests are increasing yearly for our colleges, universities, seminaries and divinity houses. For this reason, we ask for your generous financial support during this year's Thanksgiving Offering.



Support for Disciples Mission Fund and gifts to the Thanksgiving Offering are a critical part of the ongoing collaborative work of church and higher education that is such a foundational part of the heritage of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Please give generously to this offering. Your gift makes a difference in the lives of our students, and it makes a difference in the world. You can give through FCCLC by writing a check to First Christian Church of Las Cruces with a note or putting cash in an envelope with a note "DOC Thanksgiving Fund" or give directly by going to <https://disciplesmissionfund.org/give/> and select Thanksgiving Fund in the drop down near the donation amount.

Special Funds envelopes will also be available at the entrance of the Sanctuary next to the bulletins.

## *SOCK DRIVE*

*Sandy Weber*

Dear Friends:

At this time each year, I reassess if I will have the strength and agility one more year to collect socks for the Community of Hope. How can I not do this, when the socks are appreciated so much! So, from December 1-17, I will receive (with joy) NEW socks for the Community of Hope. If you choose to participate, drop your socks in the "The Sock bag" at church. Thank you for your generous support.

NEW SOCKS, PLEASE (no cash, checks or gift cards)

FOR THE COMMUNITY OF HOPE MEN/WOMEN/CHILDREN/DIABETIC  
"THINK WARM! WARM! WARM!"

I will be delivering the socks to the Community of Hope December 18th

## *COLLECTION BOXES*

*Mike Bureman*

It will soon be that time of the year, folks. The holiday season is fast approaching. In early December, I will be placing a collection box in the church atrium to collect winter clothes for men, women, and children asylum seekers as they pass through El Calvario on their way to their sponsor families.

Thanks in advance for your generosity.

# WHO ARE WE?

First Christian Church affirms the Good News of Jesus the Christ as revealed through Scripture, tradition, experience, scholarship, and reason. Within the community of faith, we are called to discern through prayer, study, and discussion God's message for today.



**The Newsletter is published monthly by First Christian Church. It is available free of charge to members and friends of FCC. The purpose of the newsletter is to inform and to inspire, and to invite participation in the life of the congregation, the community, and the world. Submissions are welcome, including announcements of activities of interest to members, prayer concerns, thank-you notes, directory updates, etc. The editor reserves the right to edit for content and space. The due date for submissions is each month on the 25th.**