



## **FEBRUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER**

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**Text Message Updates**  
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

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

## BIRTHDAYS

**2/4**  
Jeanne Brown

**2/9**  
John Schwendinger

**2/13**  
Theresa Urias

**2/14**  
Ralph Holmes

**2/15**  
Pat Weathers

**2/23**  
Karin Bergthold

## SPECIAL SERVICES

2/02	6:30 pm	Contemplative Worship (Chapel)
2/02	10:15 am	Monthly Cake Celebration
2/16	10:15 am	Church Family Potluck

## SOCIAL GROUPS

2/19	11:30 am	Brown Bag Lunch
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## EVENTS

2/07	5:30 pm	Food Pantry Support Group
2/15	10:00 am	Weaving for Justice Sale
2/21	5:30 pm	Food Pantry Support Group

## MEETINGS

2/15	10:00 am	FCC Board Meeting
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## ANNIVERSARIES

**2/9**  
Theresa & Daniel Urias

**2/20**  
Ralph & Karen Holmes

**2/20**  
Pat & Linda Weathers

# ELDERS & WORSHIP LEADERS

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**Sunday, Feb. 2 10:15 am**

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

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**Sunday, Feb. 9 10:15 am**

**Leader:** Sue Bogart  
**Offering:** Deb Cook  
**Communion:** Paul Cook

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**Sunday, Feb. 16 10:15 am**

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

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**Sunday, Feb. 23 10:15 am**

**Leader:** Debby Johnson  
**Offering:** Scott Hays-Strom  
**Communion:** Esther Devall

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**Sunday, Mar. 2 10:15 am**

**Leader:** Melody Burns  
**Offering:** Zanté Garcia  
**Communion:** Scott Hays-Strom

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**Sunday, Mar. 9 10:15 am**

**Leader:** Jeanne Knotts  
**Offering:** TBD  
**Communion:** Zanté Garcia

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**Sunday, Mar. 16 10:15 am**

**Leader:** Deb Cook  
**Offering:** Paul Cook  
**Communion:** TBD

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**Sunday, Mar. 23 10:15 am**

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

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**Sunday, Mar. 30 10:15 am**

**Leader:** Hilda McKee  
**Offering:** Melissa McKenzie-Shaw  
**Communion:** Debby Johnson

# NEWS & LETTERS

## *PASTOR'S LETTER*

*Rev. Patrick Crocker*

“As you walk the road with me, you are a light shining in this dark world. A village built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one hides a torch under a basket. Instead it is lifted up high on a pole, so all who are in the house can see it. In the same way, let your light shine by doing what is good and right. When others see, they will give honor to your Father—the One Above Us All.” – Matthew 5:14-16, FNV

How do we search for light? How do we bless the light we have found?

A recent episode of “Patrick’s ADD takes him down a research rabbit-hole” featured curiosity about the holiday of Candlemas. I knew it was listed for February 2, along with a number of other holidays, and presumed it had something to do with candles.

My procrastinator and punk selves both found delight in discovering that Candlemas marks the end of the Christmas-Epiphany season for a number of faith communities. Since it is 40 days after Christmas, it marks a special time and also celebrates the presentation of the Christ child in the temple and the ritual purification of Mary. (Several ancient cultures noted the holiness of giving birth and required those involved to have some time apart before rejoining the rest of society. The custom may have also been influenced by men who got grossed-out and new mothers who really needed some rest.)

Communities that don’t allow themselves to decorate for Christmas until December 24th finally put away the greenery and ribbons on February 2. In some countries, people watch for whether bears see their shadows (think of the groundhog Punxsutawney Phil, but super-sized). Others focus on enjoying crepes or tamales. It’s one of the liminal days, noting the end of what was and the beginning of something else.

Many churches bless candles on this day, reminding us all that we are cooperating as the family of faith in being a Light to the Cosmos. Perhaps I am not called to be the particular lamp to guide a weary traveler back home, but my hopes and prayers for both the Light and the Lost help the entirety of the World. Perhaps I am called to be a lantern, but I rely on the flame nurtured in the Community Which Came Before me to

spark the light. Perhaps the light itself is less important than that which is illumined: a place of welcome, a place of safety, a place we dare to call home.

“Creator’s life shined out from the Word, giving light to all human beings. This is the true Light that comes to all the peoples of the world and shines on everyone. The Light shines into the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it or put it out.” – John 1:4-5, FNV

Shalom,  
Patrick

If you’d like to have a pastoral visit or chat on the phone, you’re welcome to call/text me at 575.635.6489 or email me at [Rev.Patrick.Crocker@gmail.com](mailto:Rev.Patrick.Crocker@gmail.com).

### *Notes*

Our Wednesday Evening discussion group will meet on 2/26 at 6:30pm on the Zoom link for Spiritual Practices (found on the Community/Meetings page on the church website).

### Scriptures for February

- » February 2 – Luke 4:21-30
- » February 9 – Luke 5:1-11
- » February 16 – Luke 6:17-26
- » February 23 – Luke 6:27-38

# 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.**