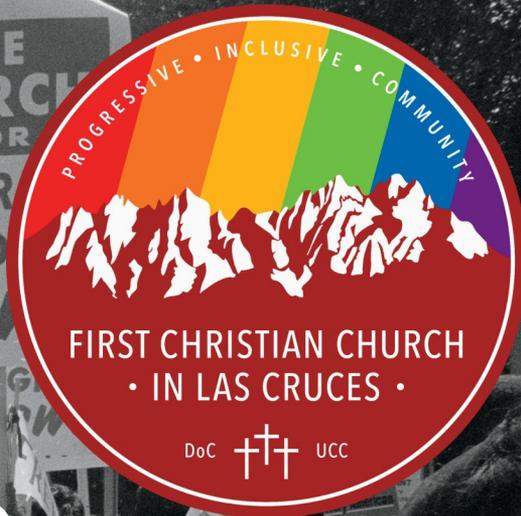


Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026



Reach Up

Reach In

Reach Out

We are here to help people know God, find freedom, discover their purpose, and make a difference in the community, near and far. No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey...  
You are welcome here.

Welcome to First Christian Church



DISCIPLES  
OF CHRIST



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST  
a just world for all

## ORDER OF SERVICE

PRELUDE.....Aletta Wilson

CALL TO WORSHIP.....Deb Cook

*Please join in the responsive Call to Worship, with everyone giving voice to the bold text as found in this bulletin and on the screens.*

Children of God, who has God called us to be?  
**A light to all the nations!**

When confusion, disunity, and misinformation threaten to undo us, who are we called to be?  
**A light to all the nations!**

When wars and rumors of wars in our communities and around the world overwhelm us, who are we called to be?  
**A light to all the nations!**

When the vulnerable are left without care or hope for flourishing, who are we called to be?  
**A light to all the nations!**

Come! Let us worship God, who gives us as a light of good news to all the nations!

**We come to worship God, who calls us and equips us to reflect God's glory and abundant life into all the world. Amen.**

### GATHERING HYMN

**O Morning Star.....**Chalice Hymnal #105  
Verses 1 & 2

1

O Morning Star, how fair and bright!  
You shine with God's own truth and light,  
aglow with grace and mercy!

Come shine on us, O heaven's sun;

our only Savior you have won our hearts to serve you only!

Lowly, holy! Great and glorious, all victorious, rich in blessing!

Rule and might o'er all possessing!

2

Come, heav'nly brightness, light divine,  
and deep with in our hearts now shine;  
there light a flame undying! In your one body let us be  
as living branches of a tree, your life our lives supplying.  
Now, though daily earth's deep sadness may perplex us  
and distress us, yet with heav'nly joy you bless us.

**UNISON PRAYER**.....Deb Cook

Guide our feet, Lord. Show us the light of grace when we  
would judge others too harshly. Warm our hearts with the  
glow of your love when we would spew icy words of spite.  
Illumine our souls with joyful delight when sadness tries to  
take over the day. Shine brightly on us today, Lord, until we  
reflect your glory as a witness to this world. Amen.

**PASS THE PEACE**.....Rev. Patrick Crocker

**PRAYER TIME**.....Rev. Patrick Crocker

**HYMN OF GRATITUDE**

I Come with Joy.....Chalice Hymnal #420  
Verses 1 & 5

1

I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved and free,  
the life of Jesus to recall, in love laid down for me, in love laid  
down for me.

5

Together met, together bound by all that God has done,  
we'll go with joy, to give the world the love that makes us one,  
the love that makes us one.

**CELEBRATION OF GRATITUDE**.....Zanté García

**SCRIPTURE**.....Isaiah 49:1-7 (Inclusive Bible)

**SERMON**.....Rev. Patrick Crocker

**This Little Light of Mine**



**COMMUNION HYMN**

We Come as Guests Invited.....Chalice Hymnal #386  
Verses 1, 2, & 3

**1**

We come as guests invited  
when Jesus bids us dine,  
his friends on earth united  
to share the bread and wine;  
the bread of life is broken  
the wine is freely poured  
for us, in solemn token  
of Christ our dying Lord.

**2**

We eat and drink, receiving  
from Christ the grace we need,  
and in our hearts believing  
on him by faith we feed;  
with wonder and thanksgiving  
for love that knows no end,  
we find in Jesus living  
our ever-present friend.

3

One bread is ours for sharing,  
one single, fruitful vine,  
our fellowship declaring  
renewed in bread and wine:  
renewed, sustained, and given  
by token, sign, and word,  
the pledge and seal of heaven,  
the love of Christ our Lord.

**CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST**.....Esther Devall

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & BENEDICTION**.....Rev. Patrick Crocker

**GOING FORTH HYMN**

Lift Every Voice and Sing.....Chalice Hymnal #631  
Verse 1

1

Lift every voice and sing  
till earth and heaven ring,  
ring with the harmonies of liberty;  
let our rejoicing rise  
high as the listening skies;  
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.  
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;  
sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;  
facing the rising sun  
of our new day begun,  
let us march on, till victory is won.

**POSTLUDE**.....Aletta Wilson

## Martin Luther King Jr. Day

The campaign to establish Martin Luther King Jr. Day as a federal holiday began soon after Dr. King's assassination in 1968, when activists and lawmakers, led by figures like Rep. John Conyers and Coretta Scott King, repeatedly introduced legislation in Congress to honor his legacy.

Despite early resistance to it, the movement gained public momentum in the late 1970's and early 1980's, helped in part by Stevie Wonder's 1980 song "Happy Birthday". The song, from Wonder's "Hotter than July" album, was an ode to King's vision, his achievements, and a rally cry for them to be recognized.

After years of petitions and persistent advocacy, Congress passed the bill in 1983 and President Ronald Reagan signed it into law, establishing the holiday on the third Monday of January and the first national observance took place in 1986.

Even after federal recognition, some states delayed full adoption or combined it with other commemorations, but by early 2000s all 50 states observed the holiday.

Later efforts, such as the King Holiday and Service Act of 1994, encouraged Americans to mark the day with community service, promoting MLK Day not just as a day off but "a day on" in service of others.

"Hate is too great a burden to bear. I have decided to love."

-From his 1967  
"Where Do We Go From Here?" address.



Information courtesy of The National Museum  
of African American History & Culture.

## ABOUT FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one body of Christ, we celebrate communion weekly. We welcome all to the Lord's table as God has welcomed us.

We are the United Church of Christ, committed to hearing God's ancient story anew and afresh in our lives and in the world today. Why? Because God is still speaking.

We are an Open and Affirming community. In Christ's example, we want to offer all persons, regardless of race, creed, sexual orientation, or gender identity, the opportunity to discover and develop their gifts of God's love and service.

# Welcome

**If you are visiting us today, we welcome you!**

**Please come worship with us again!**

**Global Ministries is supported by both DOC and UCC.**

For more information, visit [globalministries.org](http://globalministries.org).

**To assist with global crisis relief efforts, please visit:**

DoC: [www.weekofcompassion.org](http://www.weekofcompassion.org)

UCC: [www.ucc.org/what-we-do/wider-church-ministries/global-hope/](http://www.ucc.org/what-we-do/wider-church-ministries/global-hope/)

## WEEKLY EVENTS

- Bible Study.....Sunday, 9 AM  
Worship Service\*.....Sunday, 10:15 AM  
Men's Breakfast (at University IHOP).....Wednesday, 9AM  
Spiritual Practices.....Thursday, 9 AM

*\* Our Hybrid Worship Service is held in-person at the church,  
and live-streamed via Zoom and Facebook Live.*

## MONTHLY EVENTS

- Celebrate Birthdays of the Month.....First Sunday, 11:30 AM  
Contemplative Worship.....First Sunday, 6:30 PM  
Potluck.....Third Sunday, 11:30 AM  
Brown Bag Lunch.....Third Wednesday, 11:30 AM

## STAY IN TOUCH

**Office:** (575) 524-3245      First Christian Church

**Pastor:** (575) 635-6489      1809 El Paseo Rd.

**Email:** office@fcclc.org      Las Cruces, NM 88001

**Website:** [www.fcclc.org](http://www.fcclc.org)

**Facebook:** @FirstChristianLC

**YouTube:** @FirstChristianLC

**For Text Alerts:**

Msg **FCCTextMe** to **(844) 467-1299**

## UPCOMING SERVICES

Services are at 10:15 am MDT unless otherwise noted.

January 25, 2026

**Worship Leader:** Esther Devall

**Offering:** Paul Cook

**Communion:** Zanté García

February 1, 2026

**Worship Leader:** Zanté García

**Offering:** Debby Johnson

**Communion:** Paul Cook

February 8, 2026

**Worship Leader:** Jeanne Knotts

**Offering:** Scott Hays-Strom

**Communion:** Debby Johnson

February 15, 2026

**Worship Leader:** Debby Johnson

**Offering:** Sue Bogart

**Communion:** Scott Hays-Strom

### NOTICE:

Anyone allergic/sensitive to scents is welcome to use the single stall  
bathroom across the hall from the main bathroom