



# The Rainbow Table



Fellowship, Faith, and Full Plates-Every Story Matters

## The World Is Too Much With Us

by William Wordsworth



The world is too much with us; late and soon,  
Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers;  
Little we see in Nature that is ours;  
We have given our hearts away, a sordid boon!  
This Sea that bares her bosom to the moon;  
The winds that will be howling at all hours,  
And are up-gathered now like sleeping flowers,  
For this, for everything, we are out of tune;  
It moves us not.—Great God! I'd rather be  
A pagan suckled in a creed outworn;  
So might I, standing on this pleasant lea,  
Have glimpses that would make me less forlorn;  
Have sight of Proteus rising from the sea;  
Or hear old Triton blow his wreathèd horn.

\*Poem in the Public Domain

A Sonnet lamenting the disconnect that Wordsworth saw Industrialization cause between humans and nature.

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# Birthday's & Anniversaries

## Birthdays

**April 5<sup>th</sup>** - Ron Francey  
**April 9<sup>th</sup>** - Linda Weathers  
**April 23<sup>rd</sup>** - Jeanne Knotts

## Anniversaries

None



## Upcoming Elders & Worship Leaders

### April 12th, 2026

**Worship Leader:** Debby Johnson  
**Offering Elder:** Deb Cook  
**Communion Elder:** Esther Devall

### April 19th, 2026

**Worship Leader:** Eric Hays-Strom  
**Offering Elder:** Sue Bogart  
**Communion Elder:** Deb Cook

### April 26th, 2026

**Worship Leader:** Karen Holmes  
**Offering Elder:** TBD  
**Communion Elder:** Esther Devall

### May 3rd 2026

**Worship Leader:** Hilda McKee  
**Offering Elder:** Paul Cook  
**Communion Elder:** TBD

## Pastor's Ponderings



After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen. (Matthew 6:9-13, KJV)

I chose the King James version of the Lord's Prayer to start our meditation today so that it might be juxtaposed more clearly with the version we've been using in worship since the beginning of Lent.

Heavenly Father, heavenly Mother, Holy and blessed is your true name. We pray for your reign of peace to come. We pray that your good will be done. Let heaven and earth become one. Give us this day the bread we need; give it to those who have none. Let forgiveness flow like a river between us, from each one to each one. Lead us into holy innocence beyond the evil of our days -- Come swiftly Mother, Father, come. For yours is the power and the glory and the mercy: Forever your name is All in One. Amen. (Parker Palmer)

I was introduced to this version at Ministry Week in February during worship one evening. Parker Palmer, a Quaker theologian & writer, has reframed this prayer in a beautiful way that interrupts our familiarity with the prayer. It gives us enough speed-bumps to savor the words we send out with our voices. Paul W. Meier's book on the Lord's Prayer points out how often we try to speed through the prayer and asks what we intend to do with the time saved. (Out of curiosity, I timed myself trying to go fairly quickly through it and came up with 12.94 seconds. I'd request that my Olympic medal be awarded at a summer event for more comfortable temperatures, but I'm not thrilled with crowds that dense. So maybe mail it.) Mr. Meier notes that there are prayer groups in various faith communities that aim for the opposite end: taking at least 2 minutes to complete the prayer.

## Pastor's Ponderings cont.

As we move from Lent into the seven Sundays of Easter, it is worth considering both what we pray and how. From Mr. Palmer's prayer, I edit for my own devotions: "Give us this day the bread we need; help us give it to those who have none. Channel a river of forgiveness between us, from each one to each one." For the distribution of bread, I'm reminded of the rabbinic injunction: "Thank God for atheists who remind us to help others as if there were no God to help the needy nor to reward us when we do." I also see a difference between letting peace happen and actively making peace.

What keeps us from making peace, from giving bread, from living the life of Resurrection?

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).

### Scriptures for April

April 5 (Easter Day) – Matthew 28:1-10

April 12 – John 20:19-31

April 17 – Luke 24:13-35

April 26 – John 10:1-10



# Faith In Action Committee



## Faith IN Action Environmental Moment for Earth Month

The Faith IN Action Committee would like you to consider going solar. As a steward of God's Creation, Earth, here is another opportunity to be the light, and use the light God created, to lessen your impact on the environment and help your community. Using solar power for your house or apartment can make a big difference now and into the future. This can be done by anyone through roof mounted panels or buying solar power from a solar farm.

Since our current power grid is being overwhelmed adding grid tied solar panels to your property removes your load from the grid, possibly adds extra power to the grid without requiring extra capacity on the grid. With a properly sized grid tied Photovoltaic System, statistics show you will save money over purchasing the same amount of power from the power company over the life of the system. By supplying extra power back into the electric grid, you are helping the power company supply your neighbors as well. This will slow the need for the power company to add capacity to the grid in the form of fossil fuel burning power plants and more wires running through the countryside as our communities expand. With no added infrastructure it will lower the strain on the current power grid which lessens the need for power saving days or brown outs during hot weather. If you also add batteries to your system, you will be protected from power outages caused by storms, accidents or over demand.

If you rent or cannot afford a system of your own there are solar farms that can supply your power wherever you are, and it is usually at a lower cost than directly from the power company. This still requires the power to run through the grid so does not provide relief to an overworked system.

Climate action starts at home. One of the most impactful steps you can take is switching to rooftop solar or solar farms. Once you have switched to solar power you can continue to lower your impact on our climate by switching your appliances and home heating to electricity if they are currently using fossil fuels.

## Faith in Action Committee cont.

You can contact a local solar installer directly or to make the process easier you can use EnergySage, a free and trusted solar marketplace that helps you explore your options with confidence. You will need to provide personal information such as location and contact details but there is no cost for this service. They will also need to know if you want to add your own system or connect with a solar farm and if you want to add batteries to the system. They also have information on other ways to help the environment. To find out more go to <https://www.energysage.com>

With EnergySage, you can:

- See your potential savings with a free, personalized solar estimate
- Compare quotes from vetted, local installers—no pressure, just clear options
- Get expert support from an Energy Advisor to guide your decision
- Explore \$0-down solar options that may help you start saving right away

## Indivisible Project

To all who attended either in person or drove by and honked their horns in support of our No Kings 3 Rally, it was a resounding success! Indivisible Las Cruces wants to thank all the dedicated volunteers and the speakers who participated and made their voices heard. From our official crowd counter No Kings 2 was around 1,500 attendees and No Kings 3 around 2000. We collected over 20 boxes of food donations which was distributed to FCC's "The Pantry, Peace Lutheran and Casa de Peregrinos. Monetary donations were given to FCC "The Pantry".



## Special Events



**Event:** FCC Board Meeting  
**Date:** Saturday, April 18th  
**Location:** First Christian Church  
**Time:** 9 am



**Event:** Weaving for Justice Monthly Sale  
**Date:** Saturday, April 18th  
**Location:** First Christian Church  
**Time:** 10 am - 3 pm



**Event:** Celestial Sounds Spring Concert- We are celebrating Springtime with Songs of Birds and Words! Donations will be accepted at the door. Refreshments will be served following the concert.  
**Date:** Sunday, April 19th  
**Location:** First Christian Church- Sanctuary  
**Time:** 3 pm



**Event:** Singing Out, NMSU LGBT Programs Drag Show Performance  
**Date:** Thursday, April 23rd  
**Location:** Outdoor Stage by Corbett Center  
**Time:** 7-9 pm

## Special Events



**Event:** Singing Out-SNMGD Fundraiser

**Date:** Friday, April 24th

**Location:** Online only- help support us by going to [www.southernnewmexicogivingday.org](http://www.southernnewmexicogivingday.org) and searching for “Singing Out Las Cruces”

**Time:** ALL DAY!



**Event:** Singing Out-Giving Day Donor Thank you Party- Join us as we thank our Patrons for their support and have some fun!

**Date:** Saturday, April 25th

**Location:** First Christian Church Sanctuary and Atrium

**Time:** 12-1pm

**Events:** April 12th and April 26th 2-4pm Indivisible General Meeting at FCC

### Politics & Peace of Mind

April 16 2:00 – 3:30 PM at FCC Join us for open conversation where your voice matters! This unique gathering embraces thoughtful dialogue about today’s political landscape while also exploring how these issues impact our mental health. All viewpoints and feelings are welcome!



### Banners, Posters & Postcards

April 23rd 2:00-5:00pm at FCC Create your next rally poster (or banner for the underpass). Enjoy the community of writing postcards to our representatives and other elected officials on important topics. Make your voice heard.

# Singing Out Las Cruces



## Singing Out Las Cruces



LGBTQ+ & ALLY CHOIR

*Put your  
donation where  
your heart is*

# 04.24.26

## Save the Date for Southern New Mexico Giving Day!



### Give Grandly! Give Local!

**WWW.SOUTHERNNEWMEXICOGIVINGDAY.ORG**  
**SEARCH FOR "SINGING OUT LAS CRUCES" TO**  
**LOOK AT OUR GIVING DAY PAGE!**

## Singing Out Las Cruces cont.

Singing Out Las Cruces provides the only safe, inclusive music making space geared towards members of the LGBTQIA2S+ Community here in Las Cruces. We are a diverse, intergenerational community of people who love making music together. We put on two annual large scale concerts, perform smaller sets at various venues and events such as pride events, drag shows, art show openings, and more as part of our outreach program, host free events for the public such as musical bingo, and vocal workshops including specific gender affirming workshops for folx on HRT. We welcome anyone to our choir, no matter their skill level. We have members who can't read sheet music and have never sung with a choir all the way to members who have been in choirs their entire life. We have members from age 13 up to 80+.

In order to continue providing and strengthening this incredible group we need your support. Doing what we do takes funding. We need to provide sheet music, rehearsal spaces, scholarships for member dues, uniforms for performances, salaries for our Artistic Team whose vision drives what we create, and supplies to host events. We want to ensure that members of our choir and the community face no financial barriers when it comes to making music. Please consider donating to us on Southern New Mexico Giving Day, and consider setting up a monthly or yearly donation through our websites "Rainbow Donate" button to help support us in our important mission! We thank you for your patronage.

To show our appreciation we will be hosting a "Donor Thank You" event here at First Christian Church on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> for everyone who donates where you will get to meet members of our Board and choir, hear a sneak preview from our upcoming "Greatest Hits" concert that will close out our 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary season in June, play games like music trivia, and play a human slot machine to win some SOLC themed prizes, and get a special gift from us to you!

This Giving Day, put your donation where your heart is, and help us keep providing safe, inclusive, music making spaces for the Las Cruces Community!

# Weaving for Justice

**Weaving for Justice** is honored to be in solidarity with eleven Maya women's weaving collectives in Chiapas, Mexico. We take strength from their commitment to stand up for the dignity and freedom of all people. The weavers participate in what they call "the resistance." By this they mean they resist the efforts of powerful governmental and non-governmental entities to strip them of control of their lands, resources, and communities. The resistance movement was inspired by an uprising in 1994 in which indigenous people demanded rights long-denied them. From the beginning, they have wanted their movement to be for all: 'Para Todos Todo, Para Nosotros Nada' ('Everything for Everyone, Nothing For Us').

Zapatismo, remains a driving force behind the everyday struggle for life with dignity in Chiapas, as well as an inspiration and galvanizing source of international solidarity throughout the world. It is often theorized as seven principles:

Obedecer y No Mandar (To Obey, Not Command)  
Proponer y No Imponer (To Propose, Not Impose)  
Representar y No Suplantar (To Represent, Not Supplant)  
Convencer y No Vencer (To Convince, Not Conquer)  
Construir y No Destruir (To Construct, Not Destroy)  
Servir y No Servirse (To Serve Others, Not Serve Oneself)  
Bajar y No Subir (To Work From Below, Not Seek To Rise)

Adapted from "The Concept of Zapatismo" by Levi Gahman

May these guiding principles strengthen us in our efforts to defend the rights of all, in our nation and throughout the world.

**Weaving for Justice** holds sales of hand-woven, embroidered and felted textiles from weaving collectives in Chiapas in the Atrium of First Christian Church on the 3rd Saturday of each month from 10-3. All proceeds from our sales go back to the collectives.

[www.weaving-for-justice.org](http://www.weaving-for-justice.org)

## Weaving for Justice cont.

For many years Weaving for Justice has been participating in events and sales sponsored by a sister non-profit in New Mexico, The Southwest Women's Fiber Arts Collective in Silver City. On Saturday April 4th we were honored to be featured in the finale of SWFAC's annual fashion show, "Tapestry of Talent." The first part featured the fiber art creations of the collective members and the finale was dedicated to donated garments from Mesoamerica that generous textile enthusiasts donate to Weaving for Justice to raise funds for scholarships for Maya youth in Belize, Chiapas, Mexico, and Guatemala. Weaving for Justice passes these funds on to the Maya Educational Foundation based in Antigua, Guatemala ([www.mayaedufound.org](http://www.mayaedufound.org)) . In this photo taken by Franky DeAngelis, a model wears a man's shirt and pants worn by Mam-speaking men in Todos Santos, Guatemala.



Photo Credit: Christine Eber

# 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. Masks are available if you would like one.
- 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 use the stickers available to show your comfort level with personal contact. Green: welcomes hugs and handshakes; Yellow: Ask first; Red: No hugs or handshakes, please. You are welcome to change stickers as needed.
- Please be mindful of personal space and offer greater amounts to those who are masked."
- When you enter, please take a bulletin, then find a spot to sit.
- Communion bread and juice is served at the front. Directions will be provided at that time. If you prefer to remain seated, elements will be brought to you.
- After the final hymn please make your way outside, taking your bulletin and any trash with you. There will be trash cans by the front 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 Pastor Patrick at [pastor@fclcl.org](mailto:pastor@fclcl.org)

# Regularly Scheduled Events

## Weekly Schedule:

Bible Study.....Sunday, 9 AM

First Christian Church Worship Service.....Sunday, 10:15 AM

Hybrid Worship in person & streamed via Zoom & Facebook Live  
[www.fcclc.org/worship](http://www.fcclc.org/worship)

St. John’s Catholic Church Worship.....Sunday, 10:15 AM

Men’s Breakfast (at University IHOP).....Wednesday, 9:00 AM

Spiritual Practices.....Thursday, 9:00 AM

Al-Anon Meeting.....Friday 12:00 PM

Al-Anon Meeting.....Monday 12:00 PM

HIV/AIDS Food Pantry.....Saturday, 12-2 PM

## Monthly Schedule

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

To limit the length of the newsletter, the FCC Board Meeting Minutes are published as a separate document,  
available at [www.fcclc.org/community](http://www.fcclc.org/community)

## 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 God's message for today through prayer, study, and discussion.



Published monthly, the FCC Newsletter is meant to inform, 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, poems or photos of your own creation, etc. The editor reserves the right to edit for content and space. The due date for submissions each month is the 20th.

**Submit items for the May newsletter  
by April 20th by emailing them to Liz in the front office at:  
[lbrink@fcclc.org](mailto:lbrink@fcclc.org)**

### Contact Information

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For Text Message Updates  
Text FCCTextMe to  
(844) 467-1299

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