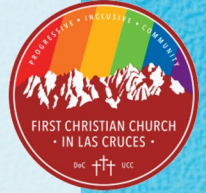




The Rainbow Table



Fellowship, Faith, and Full Plates-Every Story Matters

Summer Stars

by Carl Sandburg

Bend low again, night of summer stars.
So near you are, sky of summer stars,
So near, a long-arm man can pick off stars,
Pick off what he wants in the sky bowl,
So near you are, summer stars,
So near, strumming, strumming,
So lazy and hum-strumming.

*Poem in the public domain

In this Issue

Birthdays & Anniversaries.....	3
Pastor's Ponderings.....	4-5
Faith In Action Committee.....	6-7
From Community Partners.....	7
Special Events.....	8
National Days in July.....	9
Haikus from Spiritual Practices Group.....	10-11
Weaving for Justice.....	12-13
Worship Covenant.....	14
Regularly Scheduled Events.....	15
Who We Are.....	16
Contact Info.....	16

Poetry & Prose

Summer Stars by Carl Sandberg (Public Domain).....	1
--	---

Photos & Images

Dona Ana County Resilience Leaders (Photo used with Permission).....	7
Tortoise (Paul Cook).....	10
Purple Flowers (Paul Cook).....	11

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

- July 1st - Alex Genty
- July 5th - Dot Francey
- July 6th - David Rice
- July 8th - Mike Bureman
- July 10th - Grady McCullough
- July 13th - Peggy Feyen
- July 18th - Paul Cook



Anniversaries

- July 18th - Bruce & Cynthia Bergthold



Pastor's Ponderings

Therefore confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. – James 5:16 NRSVUE

Make this your common practice: Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you can live together whole and healed. The prayer of a person living right with God is something powerful to be reckoned with. – James 5:16 The Message

What comes to mind & heart when we consider the word “confess”? Perhaps verses like the one above in 2 voices. Perhaps, alongside it, thoughts and feelings about the Rite of Confession as practiced in some traditions, whether individually with a priest or communally as part of worship. Or perhaps we are drawn to verses about every knee bowing and every tongue confessing that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Some of us feel aversion to naming our sins to another human. Sometimes that is a bodily response which has been well-earned by those hearing a confession not treating it with respect. Sometimes our aversions are more connected to our sense of self. I recall one of the congregations of my youth trying out a prayer of confession during the Sunday morning worship. It only lasted for a month. At least one congregant felt it was too depressing to admit that we have not loved God and neighbor with our whole hearts. (Another stated that they didn't feel it was accurate.) When that experiment comes to mind, I think of an author who talked about the challenges faced by people who try to make self-esteem do the work of self-respect.

I also can't help but think of our civic communities and the aversion to naming the sins of our past. Are we, as a nation, trying to make self-esteem (our image) do the work of self-respect (our interior)?

I included the Message translation for the verse above to highlight the communal nature of the call to discernment and healing. Sometimes the “you” in scripture can feel a bit too individualistic when it was written as 2nd Person Plural. (My Hebrew professor wasn't thrilled when my homework had translations including “y'all.” My Greek professor was relaxed enough to accept it without comment.)

Pastor's Ponderings cont.

How do we live together whole and healed? And, since we're here, is it a bit odd to have the same verb tied to our sin and our Lord? Perhaps not. Perhaps it is describing an allegiance – one that has been and one that we desire to be. Perhaps in pledging our allegiance to the wounded-yet-whole Body of Christ, we might find ourselves experiencing more fully that assurance of pardon, “In Christ, we are forgiven.”

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.

July 5 - Romans 7:15-25a

July 12 - Romans 8:1-11

July 19 - Romans 8:12-25

July 26 - Romans 8:26-39



Faith In Action Committee

Dona Ana County Resilience Leaders was formed in 2017 to prevent adverse childhood experiences and to ensure all county residents have access to 10 vital services. The 10 services are categorized as surviving (food, housing, transportation, medical and dental, and mental health) and thriving (parenting support, early care and education, community schools, youth mentoring, and job training). Esther Devall heads up the Parenting Support sector and helped establish the 100% Family Center which opened its door in March, 2025.

The 100% Family Center is a welcoming, trauma-informed space designed to support families through life challenges. Using a “no wrong door” approach, the Center meets families where they are and provides guidance, connection, and ongoing support in one trusted location. Families are supported by trained staff who listen and honor lived experiences.

The Center helps families navigate complex systems by providing personalized, one-on-one support. Navigators provide assistance with food, housing, health care, and other vital services. Families are not simply referred elsewhere. Staff walk alongside families, helping them understand options, complete the next steps, and access the services they need to move forward.

Parenting classes focus on building confidence, strengthening relationships, and supporting long-term family well-being. Parenting educators offer classes in supportive group settings that encourage peer connection, reduce isolation, and reinforce parents’ strengths.

Faith in Action Committee cont.

By combining resource navigation with parenting education , the 100% Family Center creates a powerful pathway toward resilience. Families gain the support and skills needed to:

- Increase family stability.
- Strengthen parent-child relationships.
- Build confidence and self-advocacy.
- Feel connected, supported, and hopeful.

The 100% Family Center is temporarily housed at the Roadrunner Food Bank located at 2100 N. Main Street, Suite 2. In August, the Center will move to its permanent location at the Las Cruces Public Schools Administration Building at 505 S. Main Street.



(Esther Devall, Parenting Support sector leader; Alexis Espinoza, Navigator; Alma Olacio, Center Director; Julie Estrada, Parenting Educator; Kasandra Gandara, Founder of Dona Ana County Resilience Leaders)

Special Events



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



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

Events: Indivisible Project Las Cruces - Monthly Meetings
Dates and times are subject to change. For more information look at the calendar on Indivisible Project's website:
<https://indivisiblelcnm.org>

GENERAL MEETINGS

2nd & 4th Sunday of each month
2 pm - 3:30 pm



POLITICS AND PEACE OF MIND (NO EVENTS IN JULY)

1st & 3rd Thursday of each month
2 pm - 3:30 pm

PROTEST POSTER MAKING AND POSTCARD SIGNING

2nd & 4th Thursday of each month
2 pm - 7 pm

National Days in July

July 1st- U.S. Postage Stamp Day
July 2nd-Wildland Firefighter Day

July 3rd- Eat Your Beans Day
July 4th- U.S. Independence Day

July 5th- Apple Turnover Day
July 6th- Fried Chicken Day
July 7th- Day of Rock 'n' Roll

July 8th- Freezer Pop
July 9th- Dimples Day
July 10th- Kitten Day

July 11th- Cheer Up the Lonely Day
July 12th- Pecan Pie Day

July 13th- Barbershop Music Appreciation Day
July 14th- Mac and Cheese Day

July 15th- Give Something Away Day
July 16th- Cherry Day
July 17th- Tattoo Day

July 18th- Toss Away the "Could haves.. and should haves" Day
July 19th- Play Day

July 20th- Moon Day
July 21st- Be Someone Day
July 22nd- Hammock Day

July 23rd- Gorgeous Grandma Day
July 24th- Cousins Day

July 25th- Day of the Cowboy
July 26th- Disability Independence Day

July 27th- Love is Kind Day
July 28th- Milk Chocolate Day
July 29th- Lipstick Day

July 30th- Support Public Education Day
July 31st- Mutt Day

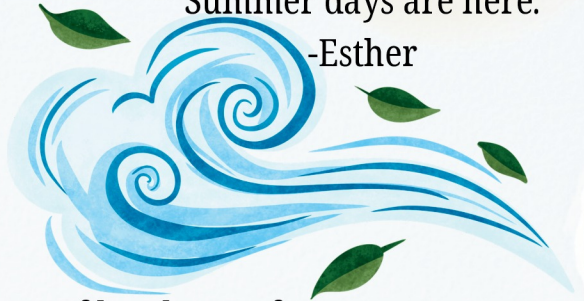


Summer Haikus



Fluffy white clouds drift
in a sky of softest blue.
Worries float away.
-Esther

Baking in the sun
as breezes caress my hair.
Summer days are here.
-Esther



Breeze of laughter soft.
Children's voices on the wind.
Sound of joy in play.
-Paul



Smells of fresh-cut grass
and hot summer barbeques
waft through the light breeze.
-Esther

Where am I today?
Area code 5-7-5.
Back on solid ground.
-Sue

Ancient eyes, staring
A steady gaze looking, calm.
Tortoise munching grass.
-Paul



Spiritual Practices Group

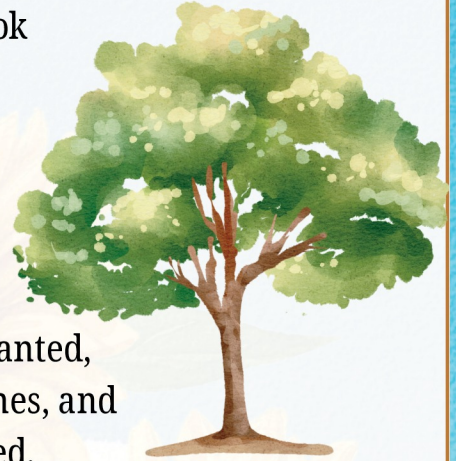


Whisper moving past,
shadow moving through the air,
swallow flying free.

-Paul

A life rooted in Christ
is like a tree planted by water -
strong, fruitful, and unshaken.

-Ashok



Where God's word is planted,
hope grows, faith flourishes, and
lives are transformed.

-Ashok



Tiny plant, growing
through the gaps inside my life.

Purple blooms of joy.

-Paul

Childhood freedoms gone.
New memories take over.
Dogs at play bring joy.

-Karin



Toes sink in the sand
while waves erase my footprints
And racing thoughts still.

-Esther

After the hard rains,
Desert calls to me, "Come out!
Sink roots in my sand."

-Sue

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



WEAVING FOR JUSTICE



Weaving for Justice is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization based at First Christian Church in Las Cruces. We work in solidarity with Maya women's weaving collectives in Chiapas, Mexico. Our goal is to assist the members to continue living on their ancestral lands in sustainable ways that respect their lands, language (Tsotsil), and traditions. We raise funds for scholarships for Maya youth by selling donated vintage textiles from Latin America and passing these funds on to the Maya Educational Foundation mayaedufound.org.

HOW TO SUPPORT US

We hold sales on the 3rd Saturday of each month from 10 am to 3 pm in the Atrium of First Christian Church.

All proceeds from sales of weavings go back to the collectives. For more information please go to: www.weaving-for-justice.org. To contact us to volunteer or donate textiles, please email us at weavingforjustice@gmail.com



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@fcllc.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

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.....Wednesday & 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

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 August newsletter
by July 20th by emailing them to Liz in the front office at:
lbrink@fcclc.org**

Contact Information

Address: 1809 El Paseo Rd.
Las Cruces, NM, 88001

Phone: (575) 524-3245
Email: office@fcclc.org

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

Follow us on Facebook
[@FirstChristianLC](https://www.facebook.com/FirstChristianLC)

Follow us on YouTube
[@FirstChristianLC](https://www.youtube.com/FirstChristianLC)

Visit the website:
www.fcclc.org