



The Rainbow Table

Fellowship, Faith, and Full Plates-Every Story Matters

National Suicide Prevention Month

“We use this month to reach out to those affected by suicide, raise awareness and connect individuals with suicidal ideation to treatment services. It is also important to ensure that individuals, friends and families have access to the resources they need to discuss suicide prevention. NAMI is here to help.” -

National Alliance on Mental Illness Website

Everyone is affected by suicide, not just the victim. Suicide impacts family and friends long after the loss of a loved one. On average, one person commits suicide every 16.2 minutes. Two-thirds of the people who commit suicide suffer from depression. Not everyone looks openly depressed. That’s why it is important to learn about and look for other signs.

Learning about suicide prevention during the month of September is a great way to educate yourself and others. If you or someone you know needs emergency assistance, contact the National Suicide Prevention Hotline at 1-800-273-8255. Find more help at www.nami.org/Find-Support.



In this Issue

National Suicide Prevention Month	1
Birthdays & Anniversaries.....	3
Elders & Worship Leaders.....	3
Pastor's Ponderings.....	4-5
Special Events.....	6
Photos by Jenny Rosete.....	7
The Shadows & the Light.....	7
FCC Building History.....	8-9
Worship Covenant.....	10
Regularly Scheduled Events.....	11
Who We Are.....	12
Contact Info.....	12

Poetry & Prose

None in this edition.

Photos & Images

Photos by Jenny Rosete.....	7
-----------------------------	---

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

September 6th - Charlotte Brooks

September 7th - Paul Braden

September 9th - Kamy McKenzy-Shaw

September 27th - Esther Devall

September 29th - Mikey Tongko

Anniversaries

September 6th - Bruce & Sandra Weber



Elders & Worship Leaders

September 6th

Worship Leader: Jeanne Knotts

Offering Elder: Rev. Patrick Crocker

Communion Elder: Scott Hays-Strom

September 13th

Worship Leader: Hilda McKee

Offering Elder: Esther Devall

Communion Elder: Rev. Patrick Crocker

September 20th

Worship Leader: Karen Holmes

Offering Elder: Sue Bogart

Communion Elder: Esther Devall

September 27th

Worship Leader: Jeanne Knotts

Offering Elder: Paul Cook

Communion Elder: Sue Bogart

Pastor's Ponderings

“At the sight of the risen Christ [the eleven] fell down in homage, though some doubted what they were seeing. Jesus came forward and addressed them in these words: ‘All authority has been given to me both in heaven and on earth; go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations. Baptize them in the name of Abba God, and of the Only Begotten, and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to carry out everything I have commanded you. And know that I am with you always, even until the end of the world!’ – Matthew 28:17-20, Inclusive Bible

What comes to heart-mind when we meditate on the word “commandment”? Probably The Big Ten, though Catholics and Protestants apparently have some arguments on how to enumerate them, just as Exodus and Deuteronomy argue a bit. Maybe we think of Jesus’ “Two-For-One Special” in Matthew/Mark/Luke: Love God with all you’ve got/love your neighbor as yourself. Or perhaps what bubbles up is Jesus’ “new commandment” in John: love one another as Christ loves us. (I have to wonder if that was really “new” for anyone at the table. Had the disciples really not heard it until that point or was that Jesus breaking up a sibling fight by saying, “Didn’t think I needed to say this out loud, but here we are”?)

To wrap up the Good News According to Matthew, we have another combination commandment. Speaking to those who doubted and those who trusted, we have a single command in five parts. Look for the verbs there: “go,” “make,” “baptize,” “teach,” “know” (or “remember” in other translations). Perhaps we are not individually tasked with all five, but rather collectively as the Body of Christ. I’ve known some folks in charge of a classroom whom I don’t think were called to teach (or at least not teach me). Others are especially good at remembering and reminding. Others are the ones who go & find, like every beloved extrovert at a party who adopted this introvert to make me feel included.

Pastor's Ponderings cont.

“Discipling” (the closest English gets to a literal translation that is usually massaged into “make disciples”) involves all of these gifts and all of us. We form and reform and transform each other as we bounce between the edges and the center of this experiment we call the life of faith. We remind each other and ourselves of the center that continually invites us in—as constant as gravity, but without the coercion. What part can we play today in bringing the life-light of Christ to our community and to the Nations?

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.

Scriptures for the month:

September 6 – Exodus 12:1-14

September 13 – Exodus 14:19-31

September 20 – Philippians 1:21-30

September 27 – Philippians 2:1-13

If you would like to journey through the Bible in daily reflection, there are a couple of resources that I've come across:

www.sacredise.com/dailyworship/ has a reading, reflection, and prayer for each day.

Our hymnals on pages 777 – 797 have suggestions for a hymn, a reading from inside the Psalms and one from outside the Psalms for each day. (We're currently in Year A, which began with the first week of Advent – November 30, 2025.)

If you have suggestions, please let me know so that we can share.

Special Events



Event: FCC-Board Meeting

Date: Saturday, September, 19th

Location: First Christian Church

Time: 9 am



Event: Weaving for Justice-Monthly Sale

Date: Saturday, September 19th

Location: First Christian Church

Time: 10 am - 3 pm



Event: Randy Cahall Sings Protest Music of Yesterday & Today: Joined by Buddy Akin

Date: Sat, September 5th

Location: First Christian Church-Sanctuary

Time: 6- 8 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

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

Photos by Jenny Rosete



Photo Credit: Jenny Rosete

FCC Building History

First founded under the name Mesilla Valley Church on June 3, 1960, before being renamed First Christian Church. Ground was broken on the building at 1809 El Paseo Rd. on March 10th, 1963. Since 1809 marked the founding of the Disciples of Christ Church, that number was selected as the street number. Around 1975 the Office Wing was added after the church sold the pastor's manse. Sometime later the chapel was added. The Chapel was originally separate from the Sanctuary. Then in 1988 the space in between was closed in and was referred to as the foyer and later as the atrium. A ceremony to "burn the mortgage" was held on April 4, 1976. For many years the atrium included a large planted area with a bridge and a small stream to invoke the Garden of Gethsemane.

In its heyday, the building was packed with church activities. Sunday school classes were held in the south wing (now used by St Johns Catholic Church of the Antioch and Weaving for Justice) and the southwest wing (now used by Backyard Farms.) The youth group used the space above the east part of the Sanctuary for their activities. What is now the HIV/AIDS Food Pantry was the church office. The pastor's office was where it is now, but took up the entire space.

Our Sexton, Jerry has lived on the premises providing security and janitorial services for over 30 years. He has a 1-bedroom apartment in the office wing. In 1980 we housed a Vietnamese Refugee family in the south wing. For many years, we rented the Southwest Wing and the Chapel to the ABC Academy (a licensed pre-school.) We once hosted a Korean Church in the Chapel. Holy Family Catholic Church met in our chapel before they moved into their current facility on Parker Road.

We have an artist's sketch of a larger Sanctuary that was proposed at one time to be built in the area that sits to the northeast of the main building in the area that is xeriscaped.

We currently have fourteen different groups that use space on our campus. These groups include religious, social justice, musical, dance, and other nonprofit groups.

FCC Building History cont.

In 2026, the Board is working on three major capital projects that are in various stages. First, the upgrade to the electrical service is underway and should be completed by the end of August. While this doesn't gain us anything in the way of additional capacity it brings the main electrical service up to code and allows all of us in the know to sleep better at night.

The next project is to convert the heating and cooling in the sanctuary from forced heating (using natural gas) and evaporative cooling to heat pumps. A first step in this process is to improve the insulation of the ceiling. This project is in the design phase. We started a capital campaign in anticipation of making the conversion in the spring of 2027. The other areas of the campus that are still relying on evaporative coolers and natural gas heating will be addressed in phases after we complete the third major capital improvement.

The third campaign will be to install solar panels that will produce enough electricity for us to be able to claim a zero carbon footprint for heating, cooling and lighting. The design of this phase will start next summer.

For the heating & cooling conversion, we have engaged a mechanical engineer to design the optimal system for the sanctuary. Once the mechanical engineer has developed a design he will provide us with engineered drawings. We will then work with an electrical engineer to develop an electrical plan for the HVAC system(s), who will provide us with engineered drawings as well. These will be put out to bid to HVAC contractors and electrical contractors, respectively, with the Board selecting the winners. The winning contractors would then start the project with the goal of being completed by the end of April 2027.

We hope this summary helps you, our congregation, to appreciate the building that we use for our church and also to better understand the plans for improving this facility. Though our use of the facilities solely for congregational activities has waned, the Board considers the building a tool that helps us to deliver on our vision and to meet our community outreach goals.

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@fcclc.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 October newsletter
by September 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 & YouTube
[@FirstChristianLC](https://www.facebook.com/FirstChristianLC)
Follow us on Instagram
[@fccoflascruces](https://www.instagram.com/fccoflascruces)

Visit the website:
www.fcclc.org