Issue No. 15 | October 2026

The Rainbow Table

Fellowship, Faith, and Full Plates-Every Story Matters

October by Robert Frost

O hushed October morning mild,
Thy leaves have ripened to the fall;
To-morrow's wind, if it be wild,
Should waste them all.
The crows above the forest call;
To-morrow they may form and go.
O hushed October morning mild,
Begin the hours of this day slow,
Make the day seem to us less brief.
Hearts not averse to being beguiled,
Beguile us in the way you know;
Release one leaf at break of day;
At noon release another leaf;
One from our trees, one far away;
Retard the sun with gentle mist;
Enchant the land with amethyst.
Slow, slow!
For the grapes' sake, if they were all,
Whose leaves already are burnt with frost,
Whose clustered fruit must else be lost—
For the grapes' sake along the wall.



In this Issue

October by Robert Frost.....1
Birthdays & Anniversaries.....3
Elders & Worship Leaders.....3
Pastor's Ponderings.....4-5
Special Events.....6
Treasurer's Report.....7
Weaving for Justice.....8-9
Worship Covenant.....10
Regularly Scheduled Events.....11
Who We Are.....12
Contact Info.....12

Poetry & Prose

October by Robert Frost (Poem is in the public domain).....1

Photos & Images

Photo by Christine Eber.....9



Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

October 4th- David Wofford
October 5th - Erika Genty
October 15th - Jo Anna Smith
October 20th - Meghann Wingsutton
October 21st- Bruce Bergthold
October 27th- Melissa McKenzy-Shaw
October 29th- Richard Feyen
October 31st- Cynthia Bergthold



Anniversaries

October 6th- JoAnna & Steve Smith
October 14th- David & Lyn Wofford
October 16th- Irene & Liz Brink



Elders & Worship Leaders

October 4th

Worship Leader: Jeanne Knotts
Offering Elder: Rev. Patrick Crocker
Communion Elder: Scott Hays-Strom

October 11th

Worship Leader: Hilda McKee
Offering Elder: Esther Devall
Communion Elder: Rev. Patrick Crocker

October 18th

Worship Leader: Karen Holmes
Offering Elder: Sue Bogart
Communion Elder: Esther Devall

October 25th

Worship Leader: Jeanne Knotts
Offering Elder: Paul Cook
Communion Elder: Sue Bogart

Pastor's Ponderings

"You all are the earth's salt. But now if you just sit there and don't salt, how will the world ever get salted? You'll be so worthless that you'll be thrown out and trampled on by the rest of society. You all are the world's light; you are a city on a hill that cannot be hid. Have you ever heard of anybody turning on a light and then covering it up? Don't you fix it so that it will light up the whole room? Well then, since you are God's light which he has turned on, go ahead and shine so clearly that when your conduct is observed it will plainly be the work of your spiritual Father." Matthew 5:13-16, Cotton Patch Version

Whether for a play/pageant or Halloween/Harvest Festival, what was the best costume you've seen and the best costume you've been? Who has been your favorite character, and why?

As the seasons turn, it's beginning to look a lot like ... well, like Santa Claus needs to wait his blessed turn, really. And it's probably no surprise that my favorite holiday has always been Halloween. I'm not one for buckets of fake blood (except in Mel Brooks' vampire comedy, where the volume was played for laughs), but rather I love the possibility of exploring character and identity. We can try on different faces and clothes; sometimes it's to hide who we are and sometimes it's to let the real us shine through. (And sometimes it's just an excuse to buy & use new craft supplies.)

Though I was never comfortable saying, "Trick or Treat" (because extortion is wrong), I did appreciate candy providers who asked, "Would you tell me about your costume?" A guess at character identification would sometimes be wrong because of a lack of pop culture awareness on one side or difficulty with materials turning out right on the other. "Please tell me about yourself" invites stories of inspiration and effort, connections, and perhaps a different set of values than one would presume. It draws in flavors that might otherwise be muted by shyness or unspoken barriers between communities.

Pastor's Ponderings cont.

What drew you to this place at this time? "Art is how we decorate space, and music is how we decorate time," so how do we decorate our selves and our communities? Can we see the Divine that loves to discover in each other? It asks each of us, "Please, tell me about yourself."

There may be a busload of folks wrapped up in the same costume, but there's only one you with your salt and your light. Even a tealight is a great gift to one who has been wrapped in darkness.

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:

October 4 – Psalm 148:7-14 –

Pet Blessing Service in our atrium at usual worship time

October 11 – Philippians 4:1-9

October 18 – Guest preaching

October 25 – 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

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, October 17th
Location: First Christian Church
Time: 9 am



Event: Weaving for Justice-Monthly Sale
Date: Saturday, October 17th
Location: First Christian Church
Time: 10 am - 3 pm

Event: Singing Out Las Cruces Performance at NMSU Student Drag Show
Date: Thursday, October 29th
Location: NMSU Outdoor Stage next to Corbett Center
Time: 7-9:30 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

FCC Treasurer's Report

The August receipts were only $12,500 on a budget of $12,700 which represents an UNFAVORABLE variance of $200. However, when you add $2,900 for the August portion of "prepaid" pledges, this becomes a FAVORABLE variance of $2,700. On a year to date basis, our receipts are $114,500 versus a budget of $101,600 for a FAVORABLE variance of $12,900 of which $7,600 is "prepaid" pledges.

The Profit and Loss Budget shows an "ordinary" August surplus of $200 versus a budgeted loss of $1,500 for an FAVORABLE variance of $1,700.

We continue to collect funds for the A Cooler Future Campaign. In August we received $25,000 towards this campaign.

We used $29,000 of "prior period funds" this month for the progress payment on the electrical service upgrades and the mechanical engineering for the HVAC.

The HIV/AIDS Food Bank balance is healthy following receipt of a $2,000 check from an agency in Albuquerque.

Please feel free to ask me any questions.

Donald Wilson, Treasurer

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Maintain momentum on capital campaign to raise $80,000 for HVAC in the sanctuary.
2. Launch 2027 Stewardship Campaign.
3. Start building 2027 budget.



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

"The most important thing in my life are my weavings."
Pancha Pérez Pérez of Tsobol Antsetik (Women United), a weaving collective based in Chixiltón, Chiapas. (Pancha is fourth from the right in the photo on the next page.)
The following is from Weaving for Justice coordinator, Christine Eber: Last week I was in highland Chiapas where I visited with women in six weaving and embroidery collectives.

Weaving for Justice (cont.)

I was warmly welcomed and can't thank the groups enough for their many kindnesses to me. During our meetings, I asked women in the groups what sources of income they have, apart from sales of their weavings and embroideries to Weaving for Justice. I suspected that they don't have many other sources, but Pancha's reply gave me pause. She's a widow and has no land to grow beans and corn and no other source of income other than sales of weavings to Weaving for Justice. She explained that often, while waiting for our next order, she has no money to buy food. A few other women said that they make a little money selling to vendors in the Santo Domingo outdoor market in San Cristóbal de Las Casas, if they have time and money to travel to the city. There the vendors, mostly indigenous women, pay the women very little so that they can raise the price for tourists. But tourism is way down, perhaps due to press coverage about the violence in Chiapas. Other women in the collectives make tortillas to sell in their municipal markets. Some earn money weaving or embroidering the traditional blouses of their community for other women who don't know how to make them. Others may have a little coffee to sell, but the drought has hurt this crop. It has also made for a poor corn crop this year and most women who have milpas only have enough corn and beans for a couple months after harvest. After that they have to buy corn and beans, staple foods in their diets. These unjust realities are a consequence of the climate crisis and the social and economic inequalities and human rights abuses in Mexico. Despite their poverty, the women do not take money from the government or cooperate in its development programs which they see as counter to their collective values. No matter what political party is in power, they maintain that these parties disregard their concerns and cannot be trusted. Our work in Weaving for Justice is complicated in the context of the great economic differences between us and the weavers, and the challenges to create just and dignified political and economic relations on a macro level. Thanks to help from our loyal members and volunteers we will keep doing what we can to provide fair trade markets for the women in the six collectives with which we work.



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 November newsletter by October 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
Follow us on Instagram
@fccoflascruces

Visit the website:
www.fcclc.org