



Lifting Praise

Issue 40 | Vol: 08

October 1, 2025



Lifting Praise is the weekly newsletter designed to help you stay connected and informed about everything happening with the First Christian Church family.

Song of the Week

Matt Hammitt - Days God Gave (Official Music Video)

Pastor's Blog

WHAT TO DO WHEN THE SKY IS FALLING

Upward Look by Jon Forrest

A man was traveling on his donkey when he happened upon a small fuzzy object lying in the road. He dismounted to examine more closely and discovered a sparrow lying on its back; its scrawny legs thrust upward. At first, he thought the bird was dead, but closer investigation proved it to be very much alive. The man asked the sparrow if he was all right.

The sparrow replied, "Yes."

The man asked, "What are you doing lying on your back with your legs pointed towards the sky?"

The sparrow responded that he had heard a rumor that the sky was falling, and so he was holding his legs up to catch it.

The man retorted, "You surely don't think that you're going to hold it up with those two scrawny legs, do you?"

The sparrow, with a very solemn look, replied, "One does the best he can."

Sometimes, the best we can do is simply not enough. There are many things that are beyond our own capabilities like "keeping the sky from falling. Many people think that they have the ability to overcome sin all on their own. But, if they are honest, it is not within the scope of their aptitude. Susceptibility to sin and its repercussions has overwhelmed the race of man from the beginning of time. James says that lust leads to sin which results in death (see James 1:14-15). When Eve was tempted by the serpent to partake of the forbidden fruit, it was her lust that brought her down. The same has been true since then and is true today. The Apostle Paul often used the Greek word, "SARX" (translated flesh) to describe this craving of the natural human flesh for things. John wrote about "the lust of the flesh (SARX), the lust of the eye and the boastful pride of life as our vulnerabilities to **"loving the world or the things of the world which is a direct interference with loving God"** (see 1 John 2:15-17).

In Ephesians 2:1-10 that amazing **"BUT GOD"** event is described which shows how that all of these personal issues we have with lust, sin and death have been resolved by what Jesus Christ did for us through his death and resurrection. If we are in Christ we are no longer conquered, useless victims. We are no longer dead in our sins, but alive through Christ Jesus. Verses 6-9 remind us that all of this is possible through a thing called GRACE! **"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith---and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God---not by works so that no one can boast."** (Verses 8-9)

So, you see, when the sky was falling on us in the form of the weight of our many sins, we were helpless to stop it with our "skinny little legs" no matter how hard we tried. But Jesus gave us his strength through his grace so that we could not only survive, but to thrive against this burden.

So, he has nothing for us to do? OH! CONTRAIR! Verse 10 says, **"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."**

Because of God's amazing grace and resurrection power in us we can do great works. But they are God's works in and through us. We are not the powerful ones, God is! When we determine to stop the sky from falling, it must be by



God's will, direction and power, not our own. He is about the singular authority of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Have you received his power? Have you gone to work?

Sunday we will look at Scripture pertaining to the title **Christians Help their Friends** as we prepare ourselves for **FRIEND DAY, October 19**. I hope you will tune in with us and pray about who you will invite to join you on that special day.

Productive in Him,
Jon



Wednesday Night Bible Study Tonight

Tonight we will continue our series of "When God Raises Up a Leader."

A Study of the Judges of Israel with a look at how God used a timid, if not fearful, leader named Gideon in Judges 6-8. Have you ever experienced God's urging to do something great for Him so you backed away for the call? Gideon tried to do that, but God would not let him. Come tonight and see what God can do with imperfect servants.

Everyone is welcome to come and see what makes
Wednesday Nights so Special at First Christian Church!

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WNS

5:30 - 6:05 - Meal

6:15 - 7:15 - Bible study

Nursery - pre k

Elementary age children (K-5) Bible Bunch

"The Immortals" Middle & High school ages

Adults Bible Study Lead by Pastor, Jon Forrest.

We have 4 outstanding cooking teams that will bring us simple, yet delicious meals that will be available from 5:30 to 6:05PM. We still encourage \$2 per person donations to offset the cost, but there is never a charge.

Menu:

10/1 - Sloppy Joes

10/8 - Mexican meal (Meal will start at 5:15PM)

Songfest October 8 (this Wednesday)

This week our Wednesday Night Special will feature a very special program. We will have a special edition of Songfest. Our friends from Clovis New Life Assembly of God will join us with their praise team joining with ours. There may be a few others for other congregations as well. Dinner will be at a special time, 5:15 - 6:05, and will be a Mexican feast, including Posole, Green Chili Stew, Enchiladas and many sides and deserts. Team 5 is preparing the meal. Bonetta Hutson is leading the Songfest program and has planned a great set of older praise songs, gospel songs and hymns for the program. Plan to be a part of this exciting evening of fun, food and worship.

Women's Council



Women's Council Meeting
Monday October 6th at 6:00PM



A Fresh New Coat for a Classroom

Many thanks to Faith Elswick, David Elswick, Debbie Hudson and Phyllis Davidson for repainting the Sunshine Classroom.

They did a fabulous job!

New Paint for the Church

We are grateful to the family who purchased the paint and hired a professional painting service to paint our foyer and nursery hallway in preparation for the new carpet. It was very well done and gives a much better first impression for guests who come in for the first time. When the new carpet arrives, it will be amazing.



God bless you for this generous gift to the FCC family.



We have NEW “Our Daily Bread” devotionals available on the entry table in the foyer.

Free for you to take home or share with a friend



St. Bernard Farm & Corn Maze Friday October 17th at 7:00PM
Please see Josh McVey for more details.



Food Pantry Change Discussed

At this month's board meeting, the effectiveness of our food pantry was discussed. The church family has been generous in bringing items for distribution to people who come seeking assistance. However, distribution has been on a need only basis. In other words, when someone comes to us seeking food, we help them. However, the numbers coming are “hit and miss” at best. As a result, the food we distribute often goes out of date before it is used. While it has been helpful to people who come on days when other organizations are not dispersing, we don't want it to go to waste. It has been suggested that we donate our

supply and future donations to Matt 25 Hope Center so that the food can be distributed in a timely fashion. This will be discussed at our next board meeting and a decision made. You are welcome to offer suggestions or comments to the board members or attend the next monthly meeting in October. Pray that we may be more effective in our benevolence to the needy.

Another part of our discussion included finding someone who can take responsibility of overseeing the local project. If you are interested let us know.



Communion at Home

If you find yourself homebound and in need of being served the Lord's Supper on Sundays, please contact the church with a request that someone come and serve you. If you just need communion supplies so you can participate during communion service online, please let us know and we can provide disposable communion cups like the ones we use at church.



As fall arrives, so does head colds, flu, pneumonia & Covid.

A kind reminder:

Communion cups & Kleenex tissue are single use.

Help prevent cross infection, please discard cups & tissue in nearby trash receptacles.



Friend Day is Coming

October 19 is a BIG DAY for the First Christian Church family. It is FRIEND DAY! This will be a planned day for inviting our unchurched friends, family members, co-workers and anyone else we know to celebrate our friendship with each other and with God. We launched the 5-week campaign on September 21 and will soon hand out materials to help you prepare and information. We began a series of sermons in preparation for our BIG DAY.

Begin praying about this special day and about who you might invite to come for this special day. You are encouraged to bring people who are not connected with a church family or who do not know Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior if possible.



Women's Council Upcoming Events:

Women's Council Meeting

Monday October 6th at 6:00PM

BASKET AUCTION

Sunday, Nov. 9th

Bring a Basket Full of Fun!

Baked goods are welcome.

Proceeds will be used for:

New Mexico Christian Children's Home Christmas party in December.

Presented by FCC Women's Council

WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

Monday, Dec. 1st @6:00 p.m.

* Bring a White Elephant gift for exchanging (\$20 limit)

* Bring finger foods / snacks

* Bring your Christmas Cheer!

All women with FCC are invited.

NEW MEXICO CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME CHRISTMAS PARTY

Dec. 7th, Sunday afternoon (time TBD)

The NMCCH has 18 children residing there!

We'll have food, games, and gifts for all the children.

Women's Council



Upcoming Events

Party will be @NMCCH, Portales, NM.

Teachers Needed

We are facing a wonderful challenge—our Sunday School attendance is growing! With more children coming each week, we are in need of more hands and hearts to help teach and care for them.

We are currently seeking teachers for:

- 1st–3rd Grades
- 4th & 5th Grades
- Preschool & Kindergarten

We are also looking ahead to the fall and hoping to find Wednesday night teachers as well. Curriculum will be provided—we simply need individuals who are willing to serve, love, and invest in the lives of our kids and teens.

Please pray about it and consider joining our team. Your yes could make a lasting difference in a young person's life.

With gratitude,

Josh McVey

Youth Minister

Christians Help their Friends

Jon Forrest

October 5, 2025

Welcome

Video – An Invitation

Call to Worship

I Will Call Upon the Lord

Scripture Reading: 1 Timothy 1:15-17 – Jaxon Forrest

Opening Prayer – Bill Wallace

Worship Medley

Overwhelmed

Here is Power in the Blood

Intercessory Prayer

Communion Song

Man of Sorrows

Communion Time

Special Music

Morning Message - Jon Forrest

Christians Help their Friends

Decision Time

Just As I Am/ I Come Broken

Closing Prayer

Parting Chorus

Behold How Good



MEMORY VERSE:

Proverbs 27:6 - Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.

Prayer Requests

Candy – A child with serious health concerns. (Granddaughter of friends of Bonetta & Josh Hutson)

Jason Anderson – Home & recovering from stomach surgery. (Brenda Knoll's son)

Judy Armijo – Health concerns. (Margaret McCormick)

Gary Baker – On going recovery from extensive back surgery on 6/17. Improved but long way to go. (Bernice Baker)

Christian Bernal – Personal concerns. (Carla Hammar)

Kendra Beevers – Health concerns.

Ann Ruth Black – In hospice care. (friends of the Wallace's)

Melanie Black – Taking care of mother. (friend of Wallace's)

James Bruffett – Health concerns. (Kristine Bruffett)

Carmen Cemy – Distressing news from Pet scan. (Bonetta Hutson)

Tony Chavez – Cancer concerns. (Jim Hileman)
Rich Davidson – Pneumonia.
Gina Dorazio – Heart problems. (Rick & Melody Lewis)
Alyssa Everett – Upcoming intensive surgeries 10/20. (Cousin of Jeff Wright)
T.J. Farmer – Personal Concerns. (Elsa Collins)
David Fredricks – Serious health concerns. Improving. (Cindy KK)
Rick Fountain – Needs Prayer. (Lori Turner)
Joe Friendo – Pancreatic cancer. Husband of Victoria. Ron Eggleton's son-in-law. (Jim Hileman)
Mike Hamilton – Continued health concerns. (Debbie Hudson)
Carla Hammar - Personal concerns.
Donna Hammonds – Cancer has returned. And recent stroke (Doug McGregor)
Mary Heitman – Mass on adrenal gland. (Mother of 2 of my children/Doug McGregor)
Casey Henry – Hospitalized in Lubbock for a hit & run pedestrian accident.. (Jon Forrest)
Barbara Hill – Having serious heart problems. (Doug McGregor)
Mark Hill – Recovering from heart transplant surgery. (Grandson of founding preacher Clovis Bolton.) (Douglas McGregor)
Debbie Hudson – Recovering from successful tonsillectomy on Sept. 30, still some pain.(Jon Forrest)
Samuel Hussey – Flair up of Severs disease. Currently unable to put weight on either foot. He is one of our 6th graders. (Jon Forrest)
Kori Koren – MS, multiple falls & injuries. (Judy Baskett)
David Lawson Sr. – Serious health concerns. (Gena Wilkerson)
Vida Linton – Personal concerns. (Dear friend of Jessie Strauch)
GaryLee Lockmiller – Staph infection in arm after surgery. (Bernice Baker)
Jon McCormick – Small vein disease in brain cavity. (Brenda Knoll)
Lori McGregor – Lupus. (Doug McGregor's daughter-in-law)
Tim Meeks – Lung cancer & discovery of more brain tumors. Recovering from surgery. (Bobby Light)
Joy Melton – Passed away 9/22. Please pray for family & friends. (Phyllis Davidson)
Annabelle Mendez – Cancer. (Bobby Light)
Weston Miller – Having seizures. (Lori Turner)
Ignacio & Blanca Muñoz – Health concerns. (Brother of Joe Muñoz)
Melissa Muñoz – Struggling with cancer (Joe & Ida Munoz's daughter-in-law)
Debbie Murray – Throat cancer. Lost voice box and larynx & now having gall bladder removed. (Bill & Pam Wallace)
Frank Muse – Home bound. (Lori Turner)
Linda Muse – Fell down & needs healing. (Lori Turner)
Marsha Neill – Leaking fluid from brain threw nasal cavity. (Colleen Gutierrez)
Chris Pacheco – Serious cancer. Getting bad. (Margaret McCormick's Nephew)
Dejon Porter – Pneumonia. (Hope Peña)
Allan Potter – Prostate cancer. (Doug McGregor)
Lee Potter – Hospitalized & not doing well. (Colleen Gutierrez)
David Renteria & wife – He suffered a massive stroke and is paralyzed on one side. Now at home in Ruidoso. (Doug McGregor)
Heath & Samantha Rohr – Heath is displayed.
Tim Romero – Prayers for medical and mental condition. He is having a severe problem with memory issues & clinical depression. (Son of Ida & Joe Muñoz)
Wilma Sartain – Health concerns
Sharon Spiller – Paralyzed on left side, will not walk again. In assisted living & better spirits. (Yvonne Lights sister)
Jody Stanbury – Lupus. (Joy Melton)
Nancy Steele – Health concerns.
Jessie Strauch – Health concerns. (Jon Forrest)
Frank Vance – Throat cancer. Resides in Michigan. (Brenda Knoll)
Janet Winter - Physical issues. (Jon Forrest)
Dee Wood – Health concerns. (Judy Baskett)
Ruthie Yarbrough – Health concerns. Recovering from surgery. (Bonetta Hutson)
Alan Zucchelli – Heart problems. Waiting for the test results. (Wilma Sartain's Son)
Unspoken request

Persecuted Christians around the world.
Pray for Israel.

Please pray for our Home Bound
Billie Aucutt – Now home. (Jon Forrest)

Bill Gaedke –At daughter's home in Rio Rancho.
Treva Kline – Living at Wheatfields. (Jessie Strauch & Bernice Baker Sister)
Linda Newell – Resident at the Retirement Ranch. (Pat Newell's widow)
Maria Sandoval – Health Concerns room 210 at St. Anthony's
Fred Strauch – Numerous health issues. Now home. Not doing well. (Jessie Strauch)
Don Sweet – At Retirement Ranch. (uncle to Beverly Duncan)
Everett Steel –. Home. (brother of Jessie Strauch and Bernice Baker)
Pat Weekley – At home.

Military Personnel & Families, First Responders & Our Nation

Please let us know if there are any changes, removals
or updates before Friday every week.

You can select the "connection" tab in your app & go to "prayer requests"
or call the church at 575-763-7113 or email at fcc@plateautel.net

Live and in Person!!

Sunday Morning Services
9:30 - Sunday School: all ages (on-site only)
(Staffed Nursery available for infants through Age 3)
10:30 - Teknon (on site only)
10:30AM - Morning Services
(Staffed Nursery available for infants through Age 3)



Additional Blessings of Streaming FCC Services

If you miss our morning Worship Services or want to see them again, they are all stored on the FCC YouTube Channel and on our website, www.fccclovis.com under the tab named Media and on your phone with the FCC app. Our Wednesday Night Bible Studies are in person or on Facebook Live and can be viewed later on the FCC Facebook page once you have joined the church's Facebook page by liking it so you can see it live or go back and review it at a later date.

You can also download the app on your Roku tv,
Google Tv, Fire Tv and Apple tv!!

Just search for FCCCLOVIS

**Invite your family, friends, and neighbors,
to worship with us at one of these venues!**



Tithes and offerings to FCC can be given by clicking "Give" link on our website www.fccclovis.com and on the FCC app on your phone. There is also an offering box in the foyer for checks and cash (i.e. offering envelopes). Another way to give is to come by the church building and drop off tithes Monday - Thursday 9AM-2PM. We can also pick it up if you can't leave your home. Just give us a call at 575-763-7113.

Thank you for your generous heart! ♥

A Reminder to Church Members

All current board reports are available.
in the hot file in the church lobby.

Newly posted are the 2024 990 IRS reports
& the updated church bylaws.



October

3 - Jaden Waltz
3 - Ashleigh Tackitt
5 - Mike Hamilton
6 - Nettie Thompson
8 - Kevin Wilkerson
9 - Andrew Fenstermaker
12 - Fred Strauch
14 - Zimzi Lovett
15 - Ida Muñoz
17 - Beverly Duncan
17 - Jonnie Loadwick
18 - Lali Ramirez
23 - Shannon Reeves
28 - Janis Corbin
31 - Yvonne Light

October

7 - Gary & Bernice Baker
15 - Michael & Cindy Shaughnessy
19 - Jeff & Ashleigh Tackitt

Please let us know if there are any birthdays or anniversaries we need to add or have missed. Thank you.
You can call the church at 575-763-7113 or email at fcc@plateautel.net

October 2025

Adjusted Servant Ministry

This Week:

Scripture Reading: Jaxon Forrest

Opening Prayer: Bill Wallace

Welcome Ministry: Bill Wallace

Communion Prep: Alice Elliott

Upcoming Events

October

Date: 10/6/25

Time: 6:00PM

Location: First Christian Church

Description: Women's Council Meeting

Date: 10/17/25

Time: 7:00Pm

Location: St Bernard Farms

Description: Corn Maze

Date: 10/20/25

Time: 6:00PM

Location: First Christian Church

Description: Board Meeting

Lead Pastor

Jon Forrest

Elders

J.D. Hileman

Keith Risdon

Jeff Tackitt

Trustees

J.D. Hileman

Gary Bake

Joe Muñoz

Church Secretary

Associate Pastor

Joshua McVey

Deacons

Gua Acosta

Gary Baker

Jerry Elliott

Clark Elswick

Andrew Forrest

Doug McGregor

Treasure

Keith Risdon

Hope Peña
Nursery Attendant
Sharon Douglas
Kimberly Wright

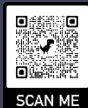
Assistant Treasurer
Tiffany Forrest



First Christian Church

1700 N. Main, Clovis, NM 88101
Office hours are Monday-Thursday.
Monday-Thursday 9:00AM - 2:00PM
Friday – 9:00AM – 12:00PM
575-763-7113
fcc@plateautel.net

like us on Facebook & YouTube
Download the app!



SCAN ME

Sunday

9:30AM - Sunday School for all ages
10:30Am - Teknon
Morning Worship: 10:30am
(Staffed Nursery available for
infants through Age 3)
On Site and online @ Facebook Live,
You Tube, FCCCLOVIS app

Wednesday

Wednesday Night Special
5:30 - 6:05 - meal
6:15 - 7:15 –Classes (All ages)
Nursery - pre k
Elementary age children (K-5) Bible Bunch
"The Immortals Middle & High school ages
Adults Bible Study Lead by Pastor, Jon Forrest

