



Lifting Praise

Issue 43 | Vol: 08

October 22, 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

Toby Mac - Heaven On My Mind (Official Music Video)



Betrayal

Upward Look by Jon Forrest

There is not a more bitter feeling on earth than the one that comes when the closest of friends or a family member emotionally stabs you in the back. When the one person who should have your wellbeing foremost in his/her mind turns on you and throws you to the wolves, the pain travels to the innermost part of your psyche. Such betrayal has led to lifelong vendettas that resulted in debris fields of wounded and wrecked lives. Lifelong wars have been fought by the closest of friends and relatives. Often, the ones who are targeted for injury by revenge are not the only ones who receive the devastation. Everyone around them is torn asunder as collateral damage.



You've seen it; two siblings who refuse to speak for the rest of their lives over the division of their parent's estate, or once best friends who now take every opportunity to tear down the reputation of each other. Such wounds spawn physical and emotional violence for a lifetime. They cause words that pour forth from the cesspool of nastiness that takes over the mind of the betrayed.

There has never been a more bitter response to such betrayal as when the perception has been that one was betrayed, stabbed in the back, thrown under the bus or left holding the bag by our loving heavenly Father. Yes, there have been times when people have felt as if God turned his back on them.

Where was God when my spouse got sick and died? Where was God when my mother's boyfriend was molesting me or my siblings? Where was God when my child was struck by a car and killed? Where was God when I lost my job, my house, my car, my reputation and more? **JUST WHERE WAS GOD** in the most difficult times of my life? Does God betray his people when life goes sour?

Jesus was betrayed into the hands of the evil religious people for crucifixion by one of his closest friends, Judas, and felt betrayed by his heavenly Father when he cried out from the cross, ***"My God! My God! Why have you forsaken me?"***

One of God's greatest apostles, Paul, prayed three times that God would remove his (unspecified) thorn in the flesh, but God did not speak until the third time, only to announce, ***"My grace is sufficient for you!"***

However, neither Jesus nor Paul turned in bitterness to God. Jesus embraced his cross because he knew that God's plan was to save the world by turning his back on his only sinless Son in order to make a way of escape from eternal punishment for their sins. Paul accepted God's refusal to heal him for the sake of his own betterment to keep him from the danger of arrogance after taking part in so many supernatural visions from God.

Joseph, the 11th son of Jacob experienced betrayal from his jealous brothers who sold him into slavery and pretended that his father's favorite son had been slaughtered by a wild beast. When he continued to trust God and it seemed God was about to rescue him from his slavery, his hopes were continually dashed by set back after set back. He could have easily rejected God as unjust and a God who betrayed his faithfulness over and over. But, he didn't let his faith waiver. He kept obeying God and serving with tremendous integrity and faith year after year, setback after setback, betrayal after seeming betrayal.

But, when all was said and done, he learned that God actually had a plan to use him to save his people and to honor him in ways he never thought possible.

If you think God is not there. If you think He has betrayed you. If you think God will never allow you to “catch a break,” just wait! He has plans for you that you do not know. He is watching you and protecting your eternal life! The day will come when the entirety of his plan will be revealed and you will know that God has had your back all along!

This Sunday, Josh McVey will bring a message about the life of Joseph from Genesis 37 – 46 and Psalm 23 titled **Rising from the Valley of the Shadow of Death**. Plan to come and find comfort and encouragement from this message from God’s Word.

Faithful with you,
Jon



WEDNESDAY NIGHT ADULT STUDY – 10/22

We have been working on a series titled **“When God Raises Up a Leader.” A Study of the Judges of Israel**. Tonight we will continue following the “Mighty Warrior,” **Gideon** with chapter **Judges 7**. Confederate General, Nathan Bedford Forrest (no relation) was not a recipient of any formal or military education, but was highly successful in his battles against the Union armies. When asked what his secret to success was, his response came, “Git thar fustest wit da mostest men.” Obviously, he didn’t study this chapter of Judges or the warfare of Gideon. Gideon attempted

to raise up a mighty army, but God had other ideas. Tonight we will look at the why of God’s plan of reducing the size of Gideon’s forces before delivering the massive Midianite army into his hands. I look forward to sharing with you tonight. - Jon Forrest

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

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WNS

5:15 - 6:05 - Meal

Songfest – 6:15

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:

10/22 – Chili & Cornbread

10/29 – Nacho Wednesday



Candy collection for the SWEETS & TREATS is NEEDED.

Please bring your donations to the church during office hours or on Wednesday night or Sunday morning.

We appreciate all your help!

Last day for donations will be Thursday October 30th!



Sweets & Treats Trunk or Treat we will be handing out candy in the church parking lot from the trunks of our vehicles Friday October 31st. We encourage everyone to have a game. Candy will be handed out from 6:00PM to 8:00PM or until candy runs out.

For game ideas: <https://funpartytips.com/easy-trunk-or-treat-games/>

Please speak with Josh McVey, if you will be participating in this event.

Women's Council



Women's Council Meeting

Monday November 3rd at 6:00PM



SAVE THE DATE!!!

Silent Auction Sunday November 9th

Please bring a Basket Full of Fun! Baked goods are welcome.

Drop off your items Sunday as early as 8:00 a.m. to Fellowship Hall.

Include your auction basket's theme and content / type of baked goods, and your name.

Sheets with a suggested starting bid will be placed at each item.

Auction will begin shortly after morning service.

Proceeds will be used for NM Christian Children's Home Christmas party.

Contact a member of your Women's Council with questions.



Daylight Savings Time Ends Sunday November 2nd



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.

Rising from the Valley of the Shadow of Death

Genesis 37-46 (The Story of Joseph)

Josh McVey

October 26, 2025

Welcome

Video – God of the Valley

Call to Worship

Come Thou Fount

Scripture Reading: Psalm 23:1-6 – Faith Elswick

Opening Prayer – Keith Risdon

Worship Medley

Jehovah Jireh

Forever

Intercessory Prayer

Communion Song

It Was Finished Upon That Cross

Communion Time

Special Music

Morning Message – Josh McVey

Rising from the Valley of the Shadow of Death

Genesis 37-46 (The Story of Joseph)

Decision Time

Lord, I Need You

Closing Prayer

Parting Chorus

Sanctuary



MEMORY VERSE:

Psalm 23:4 – Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me: your rod and your staff, they comfort me...

Prayer Requests

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

Amber Anderson – Reoccurrence of cancer & other health issues. (Kendra Beevers)

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)
Gina Dorazio – Heart problems. (Rick & Melody Lewis)
Beverly Duncan – Hospitalized this week.
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. Having a heart valve replacement Niv. 1st. (Lori Turner)
Joe Friendo – Pancreatic cancer. Husband of Victoria. Ron Eggleton's son-in-law. (Jim Hileman)
Coleen Gutierrez & Dan Peck – Personal concerns.
Carla Hammar - Personal concerns.
Donna Hammonds – Cancer has returned. And recent stroke (Doug McGregor)
Casey Henry – Hospitalized in Lubbock for a hit & run pedestrian accident. (Jon Forrest) 9/24
Barbara Hill – Having serious heart problems. (Doug McGregor)
Mark Hill – Recovering from heart transplant surgery. (Grandson of founding preacher Clovis Bolton.) (Douglas McGregor)
Kori Koren – MS, multiple falls & injuries. (Judy Baskett)
David Lawson Sr. – Serious health concerns. (Gena Wilkerson)
Yvonne Light – Health Concerns.
Vida Linton – Personal concerns. (Dear friend of Jessie Strauch)
Bill McCormick – Broken rib. (Jon McCormick)
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)
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 through nasal cavity. (Colleen Gutierrez)
John Mark Omilig – Pastor of Datag Christian Church in Bohol. He has Gout. (Jon Forrest) 10/16
Chris Pacheco – Serious cancer. Getting bad. (Margaret McCormick's Nephew)
Hope Peña – Our church secretary recovering from emergency appendectomy Wednesday 10/15. Also upcoming Knee replacement surgery Nov.10.
Dejon Porter – Health concerns.
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 deployed.
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's daughter)
Nancy Steele – Health concerns.
Jessie Strauch – Health concerns. (Jon Forrest)
Mckenzie White – Broken Tibia. (Bonetta Hutson)
White Family – Manny's work affected by the government shut down. (Bonetta Hutson)
Janet Winter - Physical issues. (Jon Forrest)
Dee Wood – Health concerns. (Judy Baskett)
Ruthie Yarbrough – Health concerns. (Bonetta Hutson)
Alan Zucchelli – Heart problems. Waiting for the test results. (Wilma Sartain's Son)
Unspoken request

People of Philippines recovering from multiple earthquakes and aftershocks.
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 **"CONNECT WITH US" tab in your APP**
& go to "EMAIL/QUESTIONS/PRAYER CHANGES"
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.fccclovix.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.fccclovix.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
21 - Kendra Beevers
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: Faith Elswick

Opening Prayer: Keith Risdon

Welcome Ministry: Bill Wallace

Communion Prep: Alice Elliott

Upcoming Events

October

Date: 10/31/25

Time: 6:00PM – 8:00PM

Location: First Christian Church Parking lot

Description: Sweets & Treats Trunk or Treat

November

Date: 11/3/25

Time: 6:00PM

Location: First Christian Church

Description: Women's Council Meeting

Date: 11/9/25

Time: 9:30AM

Location: First Christian Church

Description: Silent Auction

Lead Pastor

Jon Forrest

Elders

J.D. Hileman

Keith Risdon

Jeff Tackitt

Trustees

J.D. Hileman

Gary Bake

Joe Muñoz

Church Secretary

Hope Peña

Nursery Attendant

Sharon Douglas

Kimberly Wright

Associate Pastor

Joshua McVey

Deacons

Gua Acosta

Gary Baker

Jerry Elliott

Clark Elswick

Andrew Forrest

Doug McGregor

Treasure

Keith Risdon

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!

**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

