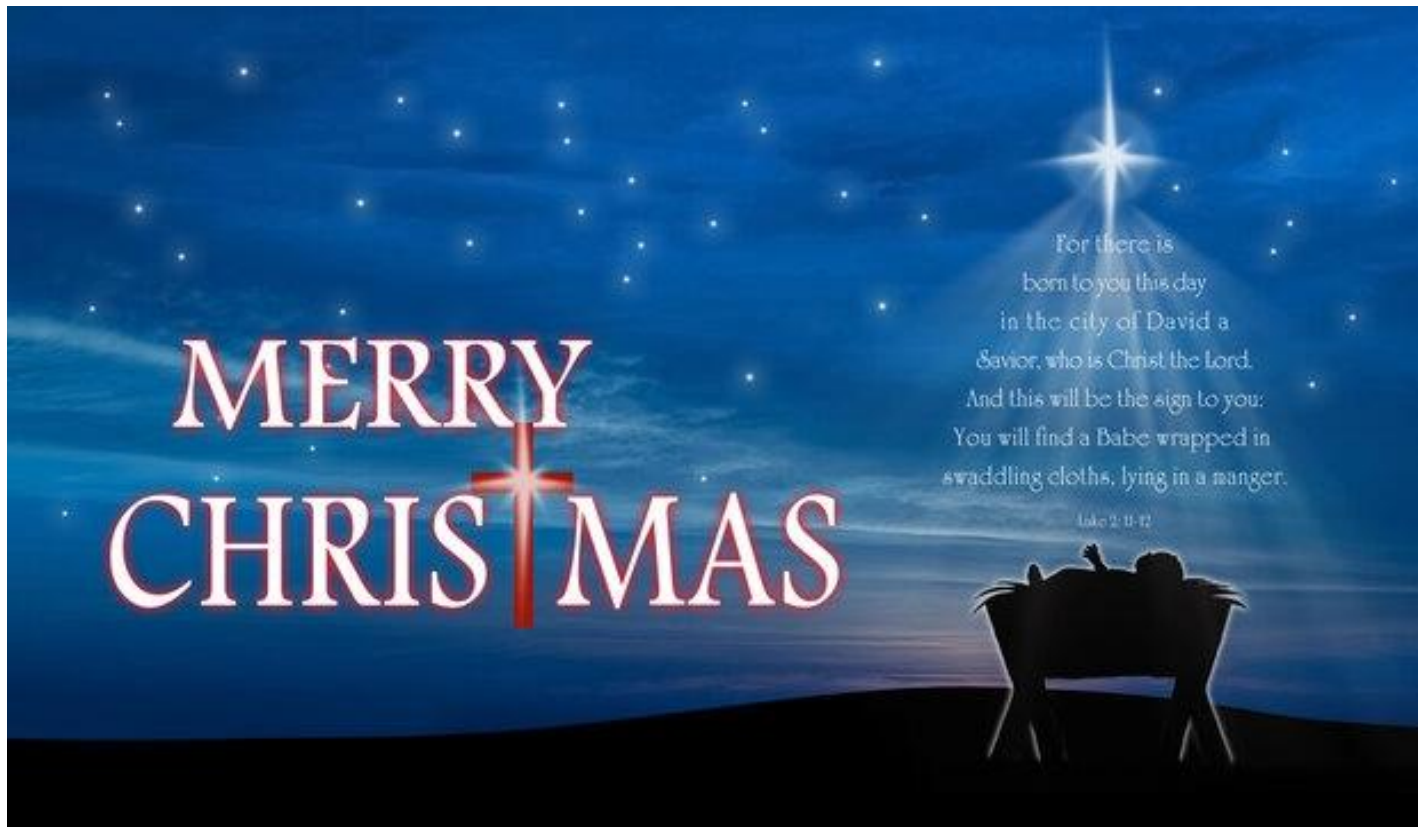




Lifting Praise

Issue 52 | Vol: 08

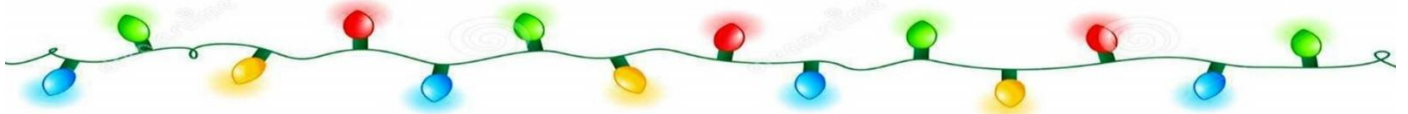
December 24, 2025

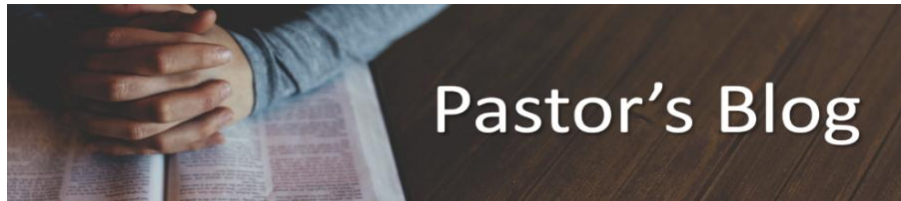


Lifting Praise is the weekly newsletter designed to help you stay connected and informed about everything happening with the First Christian Church family.

Song of the Week

Chris Tomlin - Noel (Live) ft. Lauren Daigle





Pastor's Blog



A Proper Christmas Celebration

Upward Look by Jon Forrest

Here is a parody of the Christmas season that I recently found. I don't know who its author is, but it challenges the modern view:

"And there were in the same country children keeping watch over there stockings by the fireplace. And lo! And was said unto them `Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy that is for all people who can afford them.

For there will be given great feasts of turkey, dressing and cake; and many presents; and this shall be a sign unto you, ye shall find the presents, wrapped in bright paper, lying beneath a tree adorned with tinsel, colored balls and lights.

And suddenly, there will be with you a multitude of relatives and friends, praising you and saying, `thank you so much, it was just what I wanted' And it shall come to pass as the friends and relatives have gone their way to their own homes, the parents shall say to one another, What a mess to clean up! I'm tired, let's go to bed and pick it up tomorrow. Thank goodness, Christmas only comes once a year!' And they go with haste to their cold bed and find their desired rest."

Does that sound like Christmas at your house? It has too often been the practical way it has gone in my life. Most of the things in the story are not that bad within themselves, but one terrible thing jumps out. Where is the worship of the Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord?

There is one thing you can do that will get your family Christmas off to a great worshipful start: **TONIGHT, First Christian Church is hosting a Candlelight Christmas Communion Service on Christmas Eve at 6:00PM.** It will be filled with worship and celebration of God's most precious gift, His Son, Jesus the Christ. There will be beautiful music, readings, prayers, a brief inspirational devotional, and candlelight with the climactic ending of sharing in the Lord's Supper in a very special way. The service should take no longer than one hour and should help you, your family and friends prepare their hearts for a proper celebration of the real reason for the season. I hope you will join us for this very holy time.

Celebrating the Christ,
Jon



Wednesday Night Special takes a Christmas Break

Our Regular Wednesday Night program will take a break for the Christmas/New Years season. We will resume the program on January 7. Enjoy your holidays and your families.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service December 24th at 600PM

Every Advent and Christmas season at First Christian Church climaxes with our Christmas Eve Service. We gather to launch our Christmas Celebrations with an amazing evening of worship. This celebration of Christ's coming in flesh includes carol singing, special music, beautiful readings, Scripture readings, Our Associate Pastor leads a special Children's time, a communion devotional is shared and a time to celebrate the Lords Super with beautiful handheld candles being lighted. We conclude the service with an A Capella singing of Silent Night. We then depart in silence from the worship center as we

extinguish our candles. This is the conclusion of the service. Then, people re-enter the worship center to gather their things. Many of us have special family celebrations with our families at home. My family launches our family celebration at this service, then goes home for our gathering.

The service begins at 6:00PM on Christmas Eve and lasts approximately one hour. Bring your family members, friends, coworkers and anyone you know who could use this beautiful service.

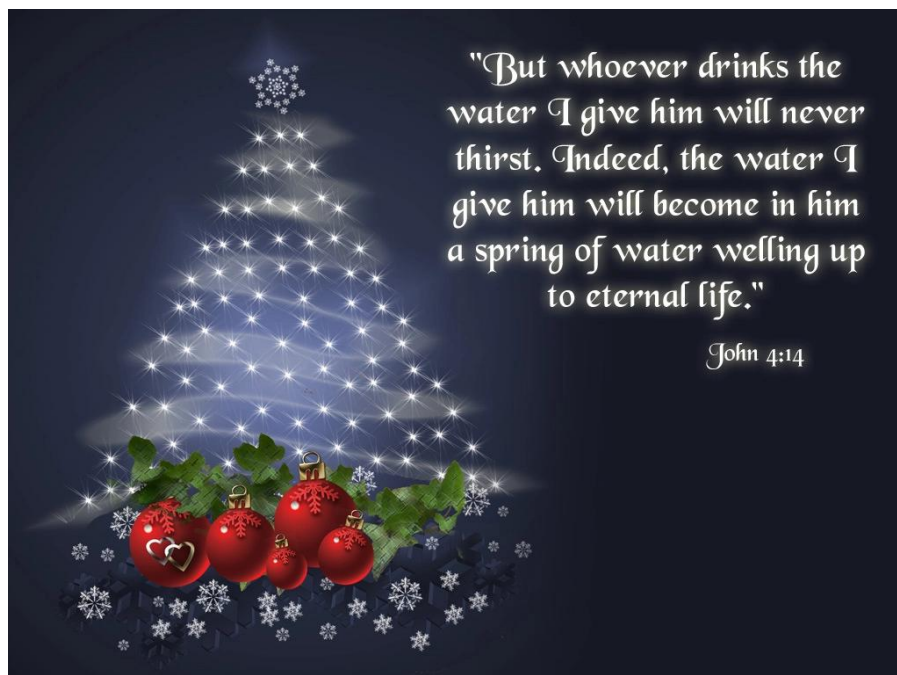
There are flyers on the resource table for you to hand out to family & friends.



THANKSGIVING FOR CHRISTMAS

We want to thank the church family for the wonderful gifts, cards and special greetings we received from you all this Christmas season. We also want to thank the congregation for the generous Christmas bonus of cash that was given to us again this year. Your generosity toward us is beyond anything we could repay. We hope that you all will enjoy your celebrations of the birth of our Savior and time with friends and family.

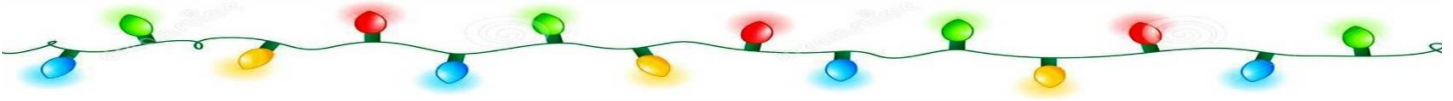
Thankful to and for you all,
Jon & Cheryl Forrest





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.



Order of Service

When The Party Ends

1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

Paul Acosta

December 28, 2025

Welcome

Video – You Are Welcome Here

Call to Worship

God is Good (All the Time)

Scripture Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-4 – Annie Tackitt

Opening Prayer – Bill Wallace

Worship Medley

He is Exalted

I Exalt Thee

Intercessory Prayer

Communion Song

The Old Rugged Cross

Communion Time

Special Music

Morning Message – Paull Acosta

When the Party Ends

1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

Decision Time

The Savior is Waiting

Closing Prayer

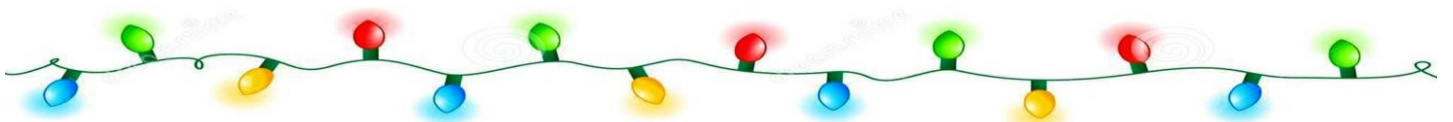
Parting Chorus

God is Good (All the Time)



MEMORY VERSE:

1 Thessalonians 5:9 – For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.





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)

Kendra Beevers – Health concerns.

Jerry Bailey – Heart attack. (Dan Peck)

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

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

Jamie & Debbie Bradley – Jamie has untreatable cancer. (Jim Hileman)

James Bruffett – Recovering at home. (Kristine Bruffett)

Christine Calcao – Breast cancer. (Rick & Melody Lewis' niece)

Lorenda Comer – Back surgery Jan. 6th. (Sister of Debbie Hudson)

Gina Dorazio – Heart problems. (Rick & Melody Lewis)

Beverly Duncan – Hospitalized in Hobbs.

Weldon Embry – Vehicle accident in Lubbock Hospital ICU. (John Butts)

Steve Fenstermaker – Recovering from major abdominal surgery 12/17. Now home.

Rick Fountain – Recovering from heart valve replacement & bypass surgery in Dallas, TX (Lori Turner)

Coleen Gutierrez & Dan Peck – Personal concerns.

Casey Henry – Recovering at home. (Jon Forrest)

Barbara Hill – Having serious heart problems. (Doug McGregor)

Josh Hutson - Health concerns.

Kori Koren – MS, multiple falls & injuries. (Judy Baskett)

David Lawson Sr. – Serious health concerns. (Gena Wilkerson)

Bobby Light – Pray for family. (Yvonne Light)

Vida Linton – Personal concerns. (Dear friend of Jessie Strauch)

Jon McCormick – Small vein disease in brain cavity. (Brenda Knoll)

Lori McGregor – Lupus. (Doug McGregor's daughter-in-law)

Tim Meeks – Has given up all treatments & on hospice. (Bobby Light)

Annabelle Mendez – Cancer. (Bobby Light)

Weston Miller – Having seizures. (Lori Turner)

Ignacio & Blanca Muñoz – Health concerns. (Brother of Joe Muñoz)

Joe & Ida Muñoz – Joe has Covid & Ida is taking care of Joe. (Sharon Douglas)

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)

Chris Pacheco – Serious cancer. Getting bad. (Margaret McCormick's Nephew)

Allan Potter – Prostate cancer. (Doug McGregor)

Lee Potter – Hospitalized & not doing well. (Colleen Gutierrez)

Kimberly Reed – Brain bleed. (Jim Hileman)

David Renteria & wife – He suffered a massive stroke and is paralyzed on one side. Now at home in Ruidoso. (Doug McGregor)

Amie Robles – Very sick with arthritis. (Claire Taylor)

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

Kristine Schares – Hip replacement surgery on 12/23. (Dianna Thompson's oldest sister)

Jody Stanbury – Lupus. (Joy Melton's daughter)

Nancy Steele – Health concerns.

Jessie Strauch – Health concerns. (Jon Forrest)

Cindy Sutherland - New spots on lower right lung and liver found. (Dianna Thompson)

Tim Underwood – Cancer.

McKenzie White – Dealing with infection that is making her feel ill. (Bonetta Hutson)

Gena Wilkerson – Recovering from eye surgery on Dec. 23.

Michael Williams – Waiting for lungs. Staying in Dallas. (Dan Peck)

Janet Winter - Physical issues. (Jon Forrest)

Ruthie Yarbrough – Treatments completed, checkup in 2 months. (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. In hospice care. (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



No Sunday Night ALIVE on December 28th.

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! ♥



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.

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.



December

2 - Hadassah Jenkins
2 - Pat Weekley
6 - Cindy Vaughn
7 - Carolee Elswick
9 - Aaron Elswick
10 - Troy Johnson
10 - Angelina Baca
10 - Frances Simon
16 - Alex Diaz
21 - Palani Romary
24 - Andrew Hawkins
24 - Jade Lopez
31 - Manuel White

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



December

9 - Allan & Ruthie Yarbrough
10 - Jon & Cheryl Forrest
15 - Stephen & Crystal Fenstermaker
19 - Jared & Shannon Reeves
19 - Fred & Jessie Strauch

December 2025

Adjusted Servant Ministry

This Week:

Scripture Reading: Annie Tackitt

Opening Prayer: Bill Wallace

Welcome Ministry: Bill Wallace

Communion Prep: Debbie Hudson

Upcoming Events

December

Date: 12/24/25

Time: 6:00PM

Location: First Christian Church

Description: Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion

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!



SundayMorning

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

Sunday Evening

Sunday Night ALIVE

6:30PM - All ages

Wednesday

Wednesday Night Special

Will be on Christmas Break until January 7th

