



Lifting Praise

Issue 31 | Vol: 08

July 30, 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

Phil Wickham - Song Of The Saints (Official Music Video)

Pastor's Blog

CALLED

Upward Look by Jon Forrest

I wrote the following article in July of 2017 as a testimony to you all about why I am in the Pastoral ministry. When I came to Clovis, I fully believed God wanted us to make a long-term difference here and to grow a dynamic, spirit lead congregation of Christ followers. I didn't know we would surpass 25 years, but here we are. I hope, as you read this, you will get a sense of my passion for God, his calling, this church family and each of you. I'll share something at the end.



As I stated this past Sunday in my message, I never intended to go into ministry. Being a "PK" (preacher's kid) or a "TO" (theological offspring) I was constantly asked if I would be a preacher someday, like my dad. Let me make this clear, many preachers would love to be as good in the pulpit as my dad. His sermons, combined with his delivery, combine charm with power. He can take the deepest subject and make it a succulent dessert for the simplest mind. There is an anointing in every message.

But I didn't want to be a preacher. I wanted to be a pilot when I was young, but, when I got older, I thought I would be a choir teacher (director). However, God just kept nudging me toward preaching even when I didn't know it. When I was in 4th grade, we had a revival meeting in our church and the guest evangelist began to talk about starting kids out early for ministry. Before I knew it, I was preaching a "junior sermon" at a Sunday night service. I thought it would go about 30 minutes, but I was done in about 2. But I still had no intention of becoming a minister.

Growing up in several parsonages did not seem to help. The parsonage was always next door to the church building so there was no separation between my dad's work and his home. If people couldn't find him at the office, they just came looking for him at the house. In those days, parsonages were old, shaking and plain. And the family rarely had money for anything extra. I remember lots of tuna casseroles, bologna sandwiches, chipped beef on toast (still a favorite of mine), salmon patties, and other poor people meals. My mom always made it taste good, but we lived daily life on a shoestring. When my parents had health issues and hospitalizations there was no health insurance and the bills caused my father to seek alternative ways to bring in additional income to pay the bills. To top it off, the church was our life. And the truth is that was my favorite part. I do remember many fellowship times and the opportunities to sing in church and sneak to the front of line for church dinners, unless my dad caught me and sent me to the back.

But I didn't think this was going to be my calling. When I was a Freshman in high school, I attended an inspiring week called High School Days at Dallas Christian College. A young youth minister named Tim Coop preached at the closing service and the Holy Spirit grabbed my heart. I went forward at the decision time and dedicated my life to some kind of specialized Christian Service. I didn't think it would be preaching, pastoral ministry, but I committed myself to be open to where God would lead me. Honestly, I really thought it would be a professional Christian music ministry.

As I continued to resist, an opportunity arose my senior year of high school to attend a brand new private Christian school in Dallas, Texas called Heritage Christian Academy. It was on the campus of Dallas Christian College, and I would live in a dormitory room. Besides the HCA teachers and students, I also developed a relationship with DCC

students and faculty. As DCC's High School Days approached, the Academy headmaster, Frank Sass approached me 30 and two other upperclassmen to enter the preaching contest. I didn't want to do it, but Mr. Sass was a powerful presence and I found it impossible to tell him no. One reason I didn't want to preach publicly was because I was a terrible reader in public. Anytime I was asked to read aloud in school or Sunday School or anywhere, I stumbled through and felt embarrassed. But, as I prepared my sermon for the event, something amazing came over me. I began to read the text in my King James Bible with ease. It even had feeling. I began to be impassioned about the message I was going to preach. From where did this come? When the contest was over, to my great surprise, somehow, I won the contest. However, even before the winners were announced, I was already hooked. I knew God wanted me to preach because I knew I would not be satisfied without it. I needed to share the message of Christ with others.

In 1980 I graduated from Dallas Christian College with a degree in ministry and was ordained to the ministry by the elders of Southwest Christian Church in Fort Worth, Texas where I had served as part time youth minister for a year and one half. Preaching my ordination sermon was my father, Gilbert Forrest and giving the charge to ministry was Ronnie Hanna, Vice President of DCC.

Over the past 37 years God has led Cheryl, Shannon, Andrew and me to 6 different church families. There have been some great times and some very challenging times. There have been times I thought I would quit, but God always intervened with someone or some event to refresh my calling. On the fifth Sunday of July in the year 2000, we began our ministry on the New Mexico High Plains with First Christian Church of Clovis. The folks here welcomed us with open arms. They have been amazingly patient with me and have blessed my family and my ministry with unconditional abundant love.

This Sunday we begin our 18th year with this family. This is twice as long as our longest ministry and almost half of its entirety so far. We came to Clovis because we believed God was leading us here. He has never shown us he wanted us to be anyplace else. Thank you all for loving, encouraging, challenging, and trusting us to lead this amazing flock. I can't wait to see what God is going to do here next.

Thanks for the blessing you all shared with Cheryl, me and our family this past Sunday. You demonstrated your kindness and love for us beyond what could have deserved or expected. My message "A Thankful Pastor" shared my heart with you and you responded beyond my expectations. When I ended with the Big Question which was; "Will you join me as we continue our partnership in building God's kingdom?" you surprised me with you applause. I'm assuming you gave God and me a profound "YES!" The plaque presented by The Women's Council was precious. The cards from so many, gift cards from some and the cash gift from the congregation were all generous expressions of love and appreciation. The amazing dinner and turnout for that dinner touched our hearts. It was a wonderful time. We cannot say thank you enough times to equal our gratitude. God bless you all as we move forward with our King Jesus and his mission.

This Sunday we will share another message from our series **Holy Stories** with a message titled, **Always Ready**. This is one of Jesus' more famed parables, the one about the Wise and Foolish Virgins taken from Matthew 25:1-13. I look forward to sharing this exciting and life challenging message of Christ with you.

Loving you all,
Jon



80th Wedding Anniversary Celebration **Saturday August 2nd**

On **August 2**, the family of Bill and Billie Aucutt will host a **come and go reception** and party for their parents who are celebrating 80 years of marriage. The event will be held from **2:00PM until 4:00 PM at 1524 St. Andrews Drive in Clovis**. Everyone is welcome. Bill and Billie are members of the FCC family but are physically unable to attend Sunday Services. Congratulations to this fine couple.



Gospel Songfest Friday August 8th at 6:00PM

The 2nd Gospel Songfest for 2025 is right around the corner. A time for us to gather and sing some of the older hymns and connect with other believers

We are EXCITED to have members from Clovis New Life and Bethel Assembly of God join our own First Christian Praise Team as we lift our voices and simply worship.

The Songfest begins in our Worship center at 6pm on Friday, August 8th followed by a time of fellowship. We will be serving finger foods and desserts; everyone is invited to join us. Spread the word!



MATT 25 HOPE CENTER

Speaker Frances Martinez from Matt 25 Hope Center

Sunday August 10th

Frances Martinez will make a mission's presentation to the combined adult Sunday School classes in the worship center on August 10th. Then she will make a brief presentation at the morning service.

There will be a love offering received for Matt 25's special project.

Matt 25 Hope Center has been serving our community since 2006, and our goal is to give our community lasting Hope and comfort when they walk through our doors. Matt 25 helps in many areas such as providing food, clothing, counseling, household items, medical supplies, hygiene products, and many more services. The Hope Center would love to do just a bit more by making a free shower and laundry room available to the community. Helping people feel cleaner and more confident. This is something we cannot do without the help of our local community. This is a service that can have a big impact on many lives. Please join us and help make a difference where you live.

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

Holy Stories

Always Ready

Matthew 25:1-13

Jon Forrest

August 3, 2025

Welcome

Video – Ready & Faithful

Call to Worship

Shout to the North

Scripture Reading: 1 Peter 3:9-11 – Jaxon Forrest

Opening Prayer – Bill Wallace

Worship Medley

Way Maker

How Great is Our God/Then Sings My Soul

Intercessory Prayer

Communion Song

How Firm A Foundation

Communion Time

Special Music – “Graves Into Gardens” - PT

Morning Message – Jon Forrest

Holy Stories

Always Ready

Matthew 25:1-13

Decision Time

O Come To The Alter

Closing Prayer

Parting Chorus

Victory in Jesus



MEMORY VERSE:

Matthew 5:13 – Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour..

Prayer Requests

Gus Acosta – Health concerns.

John Alexander – Possible dementia. Hospitalized in east Texas with UTI. (Ruthie Yarbrough)

Judy Armijo – Health concerns. (Margaret McCormick)

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

Christian Bernal – Personal concerns. (Carla Hammar)

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)

John Butts - Recovering from double knee surgery. Improving.

Sherry Butts – Recovering from knee replacement surgery on 7/16. Improving.

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

Tony Chavez – Cancer concerns. (Jim Hileman)

Linda Coiner – Daughter of Elsa Collins dealing with paralysis from Guillain- Barre Syndrome and Bell's Palsy but has improved to make transfers and able to walk some with assistance.

Houston Collins – Personal Concerns. (Elsa Collins)

T.J. Farmer – Personal Concerns. (Elsa Collins)

David Fredricks – Serious health concerns. Principal of Clovis Highschool. (Cindy KK)

Joe Friendo – Pancreatic cancer. Husband of Victoria. Ron Eggleton's son-in-law. (Jim Hileman)

Mike Hamilton – Unexplained constant coughing. (Debbie Hudson)

Donna Hammonds – Cancer has returned. And recent stroke (Doug McGregor)

Chickie Henderlite – Training for use of prosthetic legs. (Elsa Collin's daughter)

Casey Henry – Personal & health concerns. (Jon Forrest)

Glenda Hileman – Passed away 7/18. Please pray for Jim and friends and family. ❤️

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

Mark Hill – Recovering from heart transplant surgery. (Grandson of founding preacher Clovis Bolton.) (Douglas McGregor)

Bonetta Hutson – Recovering from eye surgery on 6/10.

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

Vivian Lake – Recovering from heart attack. (Bonetta Hutson)

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)

Kathy (last name withheld) - Her health is a rollercoaster now and battling with insurance for rehab placement. (Mother n law of Kimberly Wright's teacher)

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 – Health concerns. (Phyllis Davidson)

Annabelle Mendez – Cancer. (Bobby Light)

Weston Miller – Having seizures. (Lori Turner)

Matthew Moffitt – Health is not good. (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)

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

Allan Potter – Prostate cancer. (Doug McGregor)

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

Tim Romero – Prayers for medical and mental condition. He is having a severe problem with memory issues & clinical depression. (Son of Ida & Joe Muñoz)

Jimmy Sanders – Hospitalized at covenant. Specialty hospital in ICU.(Jon Forrest's Uncle)

Joel Seymour – Heart attack. Improving. (Sharon Douglas)

Sharon Spiller – Paralyzed on left side, will not walk again. In assisted living & better spirits. (Yvonne Lights sister)

Jody Stanbury – Lupus. (Joy Melton)

Oscar Starbuck – Health Concerns (Crystal Fenstermaker's uncle & Jody Wilhelm's father)

Nancy Steele – Health concerns.

Jessie Strauch – Health concerns. (Jon Forrest)

Cindy Sutherland – Undergoing radiation for lung cancer. (Dianna Thompson's friend)

Jim Tulett – Health concerns. Hospitalized last week with pneumonia, now home.(Jon Forrest)

Lori Turner – Diagnosed with kidney disease.

Frank Vance – Throat cancer. Resides in Michigan. (Brenda Knoll)

Janet Winter - Physical issues. (Jon Forrest)

Dee Wood – Health concerns. (Judy Baskett)

Kimberly Wright – New health concerns. Upcoming major surgery Aug. 14th. (Sharon Douglas)

Ruthie Yarbrough – Recovering from cancer surgery this past Tuesday. Home & doing well. (Bonetta Hutson)

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. (Jessie Strauch)

Don Sweet – At Retirement Ranch. (uncle to Beverly Duncan)

Everett Steel –. Sent home from BSA Medical Center in Amarillo, likely go on Hospice. (brother of Jessie Strauch and Bernice Baker)

Pat Weekley – Now 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

Our food pantry has depleted in a few areas that need attention.

We are in need of the following:

Please no perishables

Shelf stable milk

Dry milk

Dry cereal

Ramen noodles

Dry beans – canned beans

Spaghetti Sauce and noodles

Chicken broth

Canned meats – chili with beans & without, Chicken, tuna, spam, salmon

Canned fruits

Canned vegetables - carrots, potatoes, green beans, corn, mixed vegetables, canned tomatoes, tomato sauce

Macaroni and Cheese dinners

Peanut Butter/jelly

Juices

Crackers

Please remember all food needs to be in sealed packages.

We will share whatever comes in.

Thanks for your generosity toward those in need.

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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.



August

5 - Josh McVey
8 - Allan Yarbrough
9 - Jon Forrest
10 - Michael Lovett
11 - Sharon Douglas
14 - Ruthie Yarbrough
15 - Rickey Fenstermaker
17 - Jon McCormick
18 - Billie Aucutt
21 - Trevor Fetzer
23 - Stephen Acosta
28 - JoAnn Johnson
29 - Dejon Porter
29 - Kaydynce Reeves
29 - Jeff Tackitt
30 - Katelyn Hawkins
31 - Rebecca McVey



August

1 - Gerald & Sarah Sena
1 - David & Janis Corbin
5 - Palani & Cleo Romary
10 - Abraham & Anna Jenkins
14 - Manuel & Ashley White
18 - Bill & Pam Wallace
26 - Josh & Rebecca McVey

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

August 2025

Adjusted Servant Ministry

This Week:

Scripture Reading: Jaxon Forrest

Opening Prayer: Bill Wallace

Welcome Ministry: Bill Wallace

Communion Prep: Sharon Douglas

Upcoming Events

August

Date: 8/8/25

Time: 6:00PM

Location: First Christian Church

Description: Gospel Songfest

Date: 8/18/25

Time: 6:00PM

Location: First Christian Church

Description: Board Meeting

Lead Pastor

Jon Forrest

Associate Pastor

Joshua McVey

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

Deacons

Gua Acosta
Gary Baker
Jerry Elliott
Clark Elswick
Andrew Forrest
Doug McGregor

Treasure

Keith Risdon

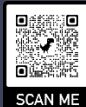
Assistant Treasurer

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

On summer break until September

