



# FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH of LAS CRUCES

A congregation of the  
DISCIPLES OF CHRIST & UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**OCTOBER 2021 NEWSLETTER**

## ABOUT FIRST CHRISTIAN

1089 El Paseo Rd, Las Cruces, NM 8801

**Sunday Worship:** 10:15am

Via Zoom and Facebook Live

<https://www.fcclc.org/worship>

**Phone:** (575) 524-3245

**E-mail:** [office@fcclc.org](mailto:office@fcclc.org), [pastor@fcclc.org](mailto:pastor@fcclc.org)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Until further notice, there will be no coffee hour before or after Sunday Worship.

Links to meetings can be found at:

<https://www.fcclc.org/meetings>

**Spiritual Practices**

Thursdays 10:00am

**Book Study**

see "Meetings" page for schedule

## ON THE WEB



VISIT the WEBSITE

<http://www.fcclc.org>



FOLLOW on FACEBOOK

[@FirstChristianLC](https://www.facebook.com/FirstChristianLC)



FOLLOW on TWITTER

[@fcclc](https://twitter.com/fcclc)



FOLLOW on INSTAGRAM

[@firstchristianlc](https://www.instagram.com/firstchristianlc)

---

# News & Letters

---

## From the Board President

On September 21, 2013, eight years ago, I married Raine at the First Presbyterian Church in Loveland, Colorado.

But that had not been the original plan.

Oh, the man and the date were what I wanted! But our vision had been to march out with our children and closest friends across a field of grass to the Poudre River under a bright blue sky, with a Scottish bagpipe, and then saying our vows under trees golden with the colors of autumn.

Our wedding was perfectly planned. It should have been lovely.

But a week before the big day, it began to rain in northern Colorado. And it rained and rained. And within days, roads and bridges and homes and entire communities in the path of the Poudre River were completely washed away. Our chosen wedding site was submerged under 6 feet of water. It was the flood of a century.

So we re-grouped. We gave in to the clear message of the Holy Spirit and arranged to be married in a lovely old downtown church in the next town over. Our bagpiper played and guests gathered after the ceremony to pull the rope to ring the church bell. The people we most loved were there. And it was perfect.

Before the Great Flood, we'd chosen a familiar verse from the Song of Solomon for our ceremony:

*“My beloved speaks and says to me, ‘Arise my love, my fair one and come away. For now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth. The time of singing has come. And the voice of the turtle dove is heard in our land. The fig tree puts forth its figs and the vines are in blossom. They give forth fragrance. Arise my love, my fair one and come away.’”*

On October 10, after a year's pandemic delay, our pastor Bethany and her beloved Kelsee will join their lives in marriage just outside Kansas City. We are invited to attend online on Sunday, October 10, at 4:00 p.m. Mountain Time.

Check out their website for more details:

<https://www.zola.com/wedding/kelseeandbethany>

As it has done for me, may the occasion of this wedding of good people stir warm memories of your own holy commitments to partners and lovers and friends dear to your hearts.

And Bethany and Kelsee, we bless you from afar- and happily join the holy circle that surrounds you on your special day.

Sue Stefford-Grey  
Board President



## Thoughts from Bethany

Dear FCCLC Folks,

Happy October!

This month I will be traveling to Kansas and Mexico for my and Kelsee's wedding and honeymoon. We hope that you will be able to join us virtually for our wedding on Sunday, October 10th at 4 PM mountain time. You can find all the details and the Zoom link on our wedding website: <https://www.zola.com/wedding/kelseeandbethany>

Since I will be away from the church for most of October, I have worked closely with church leaders to create a plan for the month. You can see that plan below:

## Prayer Requests/Pastoral Needs

For all prayer requests or pastoral care needs, please contact John in our church office. He will connect you with an elder who can pray with you, and he can also add your prayer to the prayer list for the week.

He can be reached via email at [jschwendinger@fcllc.org](mailto:jschwendinger@fcllc.org). He can also be reached in the church office on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 9-1 PM.

## Sundays

Sunday services will go along as usual. We will have church members preaching on the four Sundays I am missing, the schedule is:

**October 10** Ric Brightman  
**October 17** Lynn Brightman  
**October 24** Scott Hays-Strom  
**October 31** Jeanne Abkes

I will be back in town at the beginning of November, and will do my best to respond to emails/inquiries by the end of the week. If there is an emergency or something that needs my attention immediately, please send me a follow-up email on November 1st so it is at the top of my inbox.

I am so thankful to our congregation and church board for working with me to give Kelsee and I the time we need away for our wedding and honeymoon. It is truly a blessing to feel so loved and supported.

See you in November!

Pastor Bethany  
(She/her/hers)

---

# FCC in Las Cruces

---

## 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:

Until further notice, there will be no coffee hour before or after Sunday Worship.

Face masks will be worn over your mouth and nose by all people over the age of 5 at all times indoors, even if you are fully vaccinated. If you forget, we will kindly remind you to put your mask back on. Disposable masks will be available if you forget yours at home.

Please maintain a six-foot distance between you and other members at all times when indoors, and refrain from singing unless you are a worship leader up front (no congregational singing at this time.)

Worship leaders, musicians, and speakers are strongly encouraged to be vaccinated. Anyone up front as part of the service must wear a mask regardless of vaccination status.

---

When you enter, please take a bulletin and single serving communion cup, then find a spot to sit with at least one empty chair between you and another household. We ask that all fellowship and mingling be done outside.

We ask that you wear your name tag or a disposable name tag.

We will not be passing an offering plate around. You are invited to drop your offering in the container by the sanctuary doors.

You will receive the communion elements in individual containers which you can pick up on your way into worship. You may remove your mask to eat and drink in your seat. Immediately afterward, please put on your mask again.

After the final hymn please make your way outside, taking your bulletin, communion packaging, and all trash with you. There will be trash cans by the sanctuary 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 Bethany.



---

# From the Community

---

## What is New in the Sanctuary!

By the time you read this article there should be some changes to the Sanctuary. So what is with the new fans?

The Board has taken certain actions, of which you are aware, to help protect us from covid-19 during worship service. One such action, just taken, was to install four (4) Haiku-UV-C fans in the seating area of the sanctuary. These fans have the capability of killing pathogens, including covid-19. So the blue light from the LEDs indicates that the ultraviolet light (UV-C) is active. The fans rotate slowly and circulate the air in order to prevent stratification. The following is from the manufacturer's literature:

As the air passes in the UV-C area above the fans, any pathogens are killed. With expert fan design and proprietary ultraviolet technology, Haiku UV-C has been verified through independent laboratory testing to kill 99.99% of SARS-CoV-2 (causes COVID-19) and other airborne pathogens while safely neutralizing allergens, odors, and fumes.

Additional information may be obtained from the following website:

<https://www.cleanairsystem.com/products/?section=haiku>

So, look for the blue light when you next enter the sanctuary.

The installation of the new fans necessitated installing new lighting in the seating area. The light fixtures now in the seating area are dimmable LED fixtures of the latest technology.

We hope that you approve and appreciate the action taken to help keep you safe.

**Paul Whitacre**

On behalf of the Board

# Invitation from Faith Action Committee

**Purpose: We gather information about justice concerns and practical needs in our community and our world, to share with the congregation so that members stay aware of opportunities to serve in Christ's name.**

The above is the purpose statement of the Faith Action Committee. If you are passionate about a social justice cause or would like to serve others in our community, please let one of the committee members know. Some examples are serving locally with El Caldito, El Calvario and immigrants or researching what is happening to preserve and protect our environment, and combating climate change.

We welcome new ideas and people to further Christ-centered work for the common good.

Thank you.

Committee Members:

Mike Bureman, Ralph Holmes, Rev. Bethany Meier, Aletta Wilson, and Paul Whitacre

## Blessing of the Animals Service

On Sunday, October 3rd at 10:15 AM we will be hosting a Blessing of the Animals service in place of our usual worship service!

All are welcome to join us in our courtyard as together we bless and celebrate our animal friends! Please bring vaccinated pets on a leash or in a crate/cage.

We will be having a shortened service with a self-serve communion table set up. You can either do communion on your own at that table or take your communion elements home with you.

If you are unable to bring your pet(s) along, you are invited to bring a picture or something else that represents your pet with you. If you are attending virtually, you are welcome to email a picture of your pet to [jschwendinger@fclcl.org](mailto:jschwendinger@fclcl.org) and John will include them in our PowerPoint!

I am excited to worship with our beloved animal family members in a couple of weeks! Please let me know if you have any questions.

Pastor Bethany

# You Are Invited to Our Wedding!

TOGETHER WITH THEIR FAMILIES

Bethany Meier  
& Kelsee Evans

INVITE YOU TO JOIN THEM FOR  
THEIR VIRTUAL WEDDING CELEBRATION

SUNDAY OCTOBER 10TH, 2021 AT 5PM

WEDDING DETAILS, REGISTRY, AND ZOOM LINK  
WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE WEBSITE:

[www.zola.com/wedding/kelseeandbethany](http://www.zola.com/wedding/kelseeandbethany)



#MRSANDMRSINKC

After a 3-year engagement and courthouse elopement, Kelsee and I are finally having our wedding ceremony! We will be getting married at a small, outdoor wedding venue in Kansas with our families and closest friends in attendance. Due to COVID, we have made the decision to Zoom the service, which means that all of you are invited to join us virtually!

The wedding will be on Sunday, October 10th at 4 PM MST.

You can find the Zoom link on our wedding website:

<https://www.zola.com/wedding/kelseeandbethany>

## Noah's Ark Spotlight

I adopted Mindy (the cocker spaniel) in May, so many church members haven't "met" her yet. She has been a great playmate for Mickey! – Esther Devall



## Garden Workshops

Rachael Ryan of Backyard Farms in partnership with Cruces Creatives is hosting a gardening workshop at First Christian Church on October 31<sup>st</sup>.



October 31<sup>st</sup> from 5:00pm – 8:00pm a workshop on Making Biochar will be held in the garden. The workshop is free; all are welcome to attend. Tables and chairs will be provided for the hands-on class followed by a meal provided by a local food truck.

Happy Halloween! Costumes are optional, but fun.

For more information, or to register, please visit the following link:

<https://crucescreatives.org/event-4491883>

---

## Request for Submissions

Would you like to submit articles for publication in our newsletter? Perhaps you'd like to write an article of interest to our congregation about happenings around the city, or, you've been writing poetry, or short (really short) stories. We'd be interested in publishing your submission, as long as it is appropriate to a church newsletter! If you would like to add to the newsletter, please email the Editor by the 25th of the month.

---

# October Events

---

## Weekly

Sun.	10:15am	Worship Service for First Christian Church
Sun.	10:15am	Worship Service for St. John's Catholic Church
Wed.	6:30pm	Mesilla Valley Swing
Fri.	8:00am - 11:00am	HIV/AIDS Food Pantry
Fri.	1:30pm	Mission TF
Fri.	6:00pm - 8:00pm	New World Drummers / Dancers
Sat.	All Day	Academy of Music & Dance

## Special Services

10/3	10:15am	Worship in the Courtyard - Blessing of the Animals
10/16	10:00am	Memorial Service for Kenneth A Hall

## Events

10/17	5:30pm	Mesilla Valley Jazz & Blues Society
10/31	5:00pm - 8:30pm	Backyard Farms - Biochar Workshop

## Meetings

10/16	10:00am	FCC Board Meeting ( <i>via Zoom</i> )
10/21	1:00pm	Faith Action Committee ( <i>via Zoom</i> )
10/23	10:00am	Tenant Meeting

# Memorial Service for Kenneth A Hall

The family of Kenneth Hall cordially invites the church family to a celebration memorial service of his life.

**Saturday, October 16 at 10:00 am**

First Christian Church  
1809 El Paseo Road  
Las Cruces, NM 88001

Lynn and Ric Brightman, officiants

Burial will follow at 2:00 pm at  
Restlawn Cemetery, El Paso, TX

8700 Dyer St  
El Paso, TX 79904

Contact Karen Hall at 575-202-7718

## Spiritual Practices

On Thursdays, we gather at 10:00am on Zoom to do a Spiritual Practice together. All are welcome to join us, and no experience is necessary to attend. For more information, see the “Meetings” page of our website.

## Sermon Schedule

On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Blessing of the Animals service will take place in the courtyard and will be shorter than usual. Please bring vaccinated pets on a leash or in a crate/cage.

Since Bethany will be away from the church for most of October, we will have church members preaching on the four Sundays they are missing.

- October 3**     Blessing of the Animals
- October 10**    Ric Brightman
- October 17**    Lynn Brightman
- October 24**    Scott Hays-Strom
- October 31**    Jeanne Abkes

# Elder / Worship Leader

## October

<b>October 3</b>	Scott Hays-Strom	Melissa McKenzy-Shaw
<b>October 10</b>	Kamy Shaw	Karen Holmes
<b>October 17</b>	Melissa McKenzy-Shaw	Esther Devall
<b>October 24</b>	Sandy Weber	Sue Stefford-Grey
<b>October 31</b>	Esther Devall	Kamy Shaw

## November

<b>November 7</b>	Patrick Crocker *	Melissa McKenzy-Shaw
<b>November 14</b>	Paul Cook	Karen Holmes
<b>November 21</b>	Deb Cook	Sue Stefford-Grey
<b>November 28</b>	Scott Hays-Strom	Esther Devall

\* Rev. Bethany will do Communion on November 7

## Birthdays

10/4	David Wofford
10/12	Shane Caballero
10/13	Sue Lashley
10/23	Joy Bever
10/26	Kelsee Evans
10/27	Melissa McKenzy-Shaw

## Anniversaries

10/10	Bethany Meier & Kelsee Evans
10/14	David & Lynn Wofford
10/18	Carol Buschick & Joy Eby

---

# 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 through prayer, study, and discussion God's message for today.



**The Newsletter is published monthly by First Christian Church. It is available free of charge to members and friends of FCC. The purpose of the newsletter is to inform and to 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, etc. The editor reserves the right to edit for content and space. The due date for submissions is each month on the 25th.**