



JANUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER

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Text Message Updates

Text FCCTextMe to
(844) 467-1299

Weekly Schedule

Worship Service: Sun. 10:15am

Hybrid Worship in Person &
Streamed via Zoom and Facebook Live

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

Social Hours: Wed. 6:30pm

1st Wed: Crafters Group

2nd Wed: LGBTQ Group

3rd Wed: Adult Education Group

4th Wed: Book Discussion

Spiritual Practices: Thu. 9:00am

Every Thursday on Zoom

Some practices we do regularly:

Lectio Divina, Centering Prayer, Christian
Meditation, Bible Journaling, Scripture
Doodling, and more!

Announcements

- » We have lifted all the Covid restrictions. The CDC has removed the Covid restrictions and rates of infection are low in the area. This means we do not require or request persons wear masks. It is up to your discretion if you wish to wear a mask. We are also returning to indoor coffee hour and potlucks.
- » We will continue to serve Communion at the front of the Sanctuary during our Sunday service.
- » We ask that participants form two lines at a safe distance, and keep masks on while in line and after being served.
- » Individual sealed communion elements are available if desired.
- » If you are unable to come forward, a deacon will serve you at your seat.
- » To limit the length of the newsletter, the FCC Board Meeting Minutes are published as a separate document, available at <https://www.fcclc.org/community/>

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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:

- » While you may choose to wear a mask, they are no longer required or requested by FCC at this time. We may adjust this decision in the future based on the numbers.
- » Worship leaders, musicians, and speakers are strongly encouraged to be vaccinated.
- » We ask that you wear your name tag or a disposable name tag, available by the front doors.
- » Please maintain a six-foot distance between you and other members at all times when indoors.
- » When you enter, please take a bulletin, then find a spot to sit. We ask that all fellowship and mingling be done outside.
- » All who are able are invited to come forward for communion.
- » If you are not able to come forward, a deacon will serve you at your seat. Individual sealed elements are available if preferred.
- » After the final hymn please make your way outside, taking your bulletin and any 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.

CALENDAR

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sun.	10:15 am	First Christian Church Worship
	10:15 am	St. John's Catholic Church Worship
Mon.	6:30 pm	Celestial Sounds (Sanctuary)
Wed.	6:30 pm	FCC Social Hour (Parlor)
	6:30 pm	Mesilla Valley Swing (Sanctuary)
Thu.	9:00 am	Spiritual Practices (Zoom)
Fri.	12:00 pm	Al-Anon
	6:00 pm	New World Drummers / Dancers
Sat.	8:00am	HIV/AIDS Food Bank

SOCIAL GROUPS

1/4	6:30 pm	Crafters Group
1/11	6:30 pm	LGBTQ Group
1/18	6:30 pm	Adult Education Group
1/25	6:30 pm	Book Discussion Group

EVENTS

1/6	5:30 pm	Food Pantry Support Group
1/20	5:30 pm	Food Pantry Support Group
1/15	5:30 pm	Mesilla Valley Jazz & Blues
1/21	10:00 am	Weaving for Justice Sale

MEETINGS

1/21	10:00 am	FCC Board Meeting
1/22	11:15 am	Congregational Meeting
1/28	10:00 am	Tenant Meeting

BIRTHDAYS

1/5	Lynn Brightman
1/9	Melody Burns
1/14	Debra Darmata
1/24	Kai Talon
1/27	Liana Brown
1/30	Allison Mason

ELDERS & WORSHIP LEADERS

January, 2023

Sunday, Jan. 1 10:15 am

Worship Leader: Karen Holmes
 Offering: Kamy McKenzy-Shaw
 Communion: Paul Cook

Sunday, Jan. 8 10:15 am

Worship Leader: Melody Burns
 Offering: Paul Cook
 Communion: Kamy McKenzy-Shaw

Sunday, Jan. 15 10:15 am

Worship Leader: Kamy McKenzy-Shaw
 Offering: Sandy Weber
 Communion: Patrick Crocker

Sunday, Jan. 22 10:15 am

Worship Leader: Deb Cook
 Offering: Melissa McKenzy-Shaw
 Communion: Sandy Weber

Sunday, Jan. 29 10:15 am

Worship Leader: Sue Stefford-Grey
 Offering: Deb Cook
 Communion: Melissa McKenzy-Shaw

February, 2023

Sunday, Feb. 5 10:15 am

Worship Leader: Melissa McKenzy-Shaw
 Offering: Patrick Crocker
 Communion: Deb Cook

Sunday, Feb. 12 10:15 am

Worship Leader: Eric Hays-Strom
 Offering: Esther Devall
 Communion: Patrick Crocker

Sunday, Feb. 19 10:15 am

Worship Leader: Hilda McKee
 Offering: Scott Hays-Strom
 Communion: Esther Devall

Sunday, Feb. 26 10:15 am

Worship Leader: Esther Devall
 Offering: Sandy Weber
 Communion: Scott Hays-Strom

BOARD PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Scott Hays-Strom

IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES GIVE THANKS
1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NIV)

Welcome to 2023! I know that 2022 was quite a year. As individuals, and as a church we have survived a great deal of change and challenges. Yet, unlike many churches around the nation, we are still here! That is a good reason to give thanks.

As we begin a new year, we will be seeing even more change than last year, and that is good thing. God is still speaking to us and still challenging us to go forward. And in all that we should give thanks. But if you notice from my title God isn't telling us to give thanks FOR all circumstances, but IN.

To give thanks in all circumstances it to take the time, as we usually do in the new year, to notice where new life is sprouting. While it's still cold, we look for hints of spring to break through. Giving thanks is sifting through the ashes to see what remains, what will rise up again. It's the audacious act of claiming there is still hope where there doesn't seem to be any hope. It's stubbornly clinging to the promise that life comes from death, and beginnings come from endings.

January begins some new and exciting things for us to look forward to. We will be calling several new board members, new deacons to help lead the church in a new Strategic Plan. We will begin looking for a long-term Interim Pastor, as well as a settled Pastor. There are many things happening that will challenge us to see the new life in all circumstances. We will be able to work together to achieve the new works that God has called First Christian Church to follow.

With this being my last newsletter as the President of the board, I have to say thank you to all of you for your generous giving of time, treasures, and talents. We wouldn't be where we are today without everything that you do. So when challenges become like the dead of winter, and circumstances seem hard, remember to give thanks to God in those circumstance. And give praise that we can go through them together.

Thank You,
Scott

ANNUAL SOCK DRIVE

720 pairs of socks were delivered to the Community of Hope, on December 21st. Additionally, two new, warm, blankets; several knit hats; and 8 pair of mittens were found among the socks (all delivered). My heart is bursting with THANKS! I am humbled by your generosity and loving kindness for this project.

You have warmed many, many cold feet of the homeless and near-homeless.

Pictured: Sandy delivering socks to Nicole Martinez, Executive Director of Mesilla Valley Community of Hope/Abode, Inc.

Much thanks; Happy New Year.
Sandy Weber



FCC ROOM USAGE

Karen Holmes

In order to avoid any conflict, please contact office@fclcl.org and kholmes@fclcl.org if you plan to use any of the common areas: parlor, chapel, sanctuary or courtyard. Include the name of the group, requested area, date and time. We will update the calendar accordingly

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.