



Lifting Praise

Issue 15 | Vol: 09

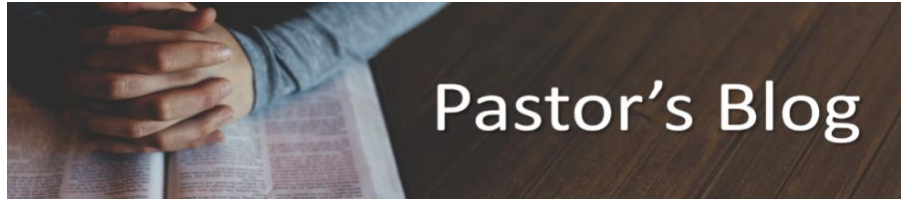
April 15, 2026



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

We Are Messengers - Halfway Home

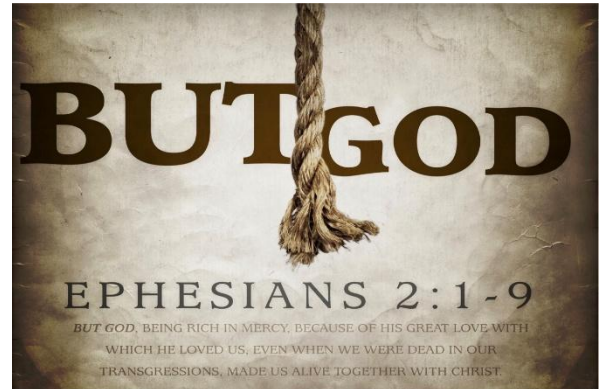


But God!

Upward Look by Jon Forrest

There was once a young illiterate couple named Dave and Carol. Dave and Carol had recently confessed faith in Jesus Christ and were baptized. Wanting to be more involved in the activities of the church, they regularly attended the Sunday School class for young married couples. The couple noticed that, in this particular class, the men all had the same shirts, often worn during group activities.

Desiring to be part of the group, Dave was eager to get his matching shirt, so Carol made one for her husband. But after the next meeting, Dave came home with a look of disappointment on his face. He had his shirt, but at the meeting he noticed that all the men had little emblems on their shirts--Dave's was plain. So Carol, undaunted by her inability to read, embroidered three words which she copied from a sign in a store window across the street. Dave wore it at the next meeting. This time he came home bubbling with joy. He told Carol that all the men really liked the inscription that Carol had put on his shirt. They said it so aptly described the wonderful change they had seen in his life. It turned out that his wife had written, "**UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT.**"



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The second chapter of Ephesians begins with a "Bad news, Good news" description of the members of the church in Ephesus that explains Dave and Carol's lives and the life of every Christ follower. The first three verses give a grave description of what our unbelieving past. It describes people who were spiritually dead, people who were into a life of disobedience and followers of the mentality of the world and not only of the world, but also the evil one who influences the world and all who are disobedient. It describes people who were filled with self and passionate about sinful cravings. The writer, Paul, completes verse 3 saying, "we were deserving of wrath."

This is not a pretty picture of our past, but it is, not only accurate, but a vivid description. Without Christ we are without hope, without joy, without opportunity for heaven and without life. There is no one whose personal history does not include at least some of Paul's description.

The world in which we live is in the same boat; hopeless, joyless and lifeless. However, two words show up in Scripture that turn the entire mess of our lives and of our world completely around. Those two words are, "**BUT GOD!**"

The NIV separates the two words with the valuable prepositional phrase, "because of his great love for us." However, they still go together, "**BUT GOD.**"

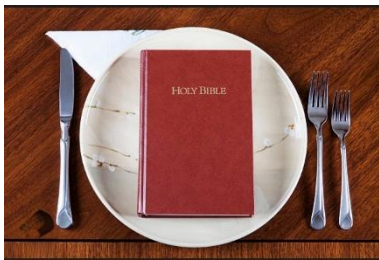
In the following verses we learn the result of that powerful phrase. We are made alive through Christ's resurrection and given access to God, seated in his presence." Ultimately, we learn, "It's a grace thing." We are not saved because of our goodness. No, it is because of his desire to come and rescue us and pull us back on his level. There is no reason to boast because verses 8 and 9 tell us that this is not from ourselves, but from God by his amazing grace. Someone created an acrostic for **GRACE** years ago...

God's
Riches
At
Christ's
Expense

By his grace you and I are not what we once were! Glory be to God!

This week we will begin a new series of messages on Sunday mornings titled “**BUT GOD.**” I think you will find encouragement and challenges to walk in the “**BUT GOD**” life! Invite your friends to come and take part. Our first message is, “**Every Saint Has a Past! Every Sinner Has a Future!**” This is based on Ephesians 2:1-3 and following. I’ll see you Sunday!

By His Grace,
Jon



Wednesday Night Adult Bible Study – April 15

This week we will complete our series, **World Changing Faith** with Lesson 12, **Well Rounded Christian Living**, based on 1 Thessalonians 5:23-28. We will look at ways to take a wholistic approach to applying our faith in Christ to everyday living. Come share in the growth and fun of an interactive Bible experience.

+++++

WNS

5:30 - 6:05 - meal

6:15 - 7:15 – Bible study

Nursery - pre k

Elementary age children (K-5) Bible Bunch

“The Immortals Middle & High school ages

Adults Bible Study Lead by Pastor, Jon Forrest.

We have 5 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:

4/15 – Enchiladas

4/22 – Chili & Cornbread



Celebrate Recovery is a biblical and balanced program that helps people overcome their HURTS, HABITS, and HANG-UPS. It is based on the actual words of JESUS CHRIST. First Christian welcomed this ministry in February this year and it has been an exciting time of outreach to people in our Clovis community seeking more than just another “meeting.” Celebrate Recovery is about establishing or re-establishing a RELATIONSHIP with Jesus.

Every Tuesday night we start with a dinner and fellowship for the FOREVR FAMILY. A time to touch base with our regulars, and for the ministry team to greet and meet people coming to share our life experiences and present events that influence our daily lives. Under the leadership of Bonetta Hutson, the team consists of our own Ashley White, along with Phillip Landers (Christian Believers_ Stephen Lopez (Gracia Church), Nicki Racette-Windle (Church of the Brethren) and Jonathan and Davena Lindley (Living Word Church). We are excited that twice a month Ms. Kayla Damron (Legacy) is leading youth during our service so their parents can attend the Big Group. This Sunday, April 19th, Nikole Thompson will be speaking to our Sunday School classes, giving a brief introduction of her own HURT, HABITS, and HANGUPS, which led her to seek out Jesus Christ through Celebrate Recovery. Nikole is celebrating over 20 years of sobriety this May, and is a published author, speaker and a woman after God’s own hearts. Nikole will be sharing her testimony at our Celebrate Recovery meeting on Tuesday, April 21st, and we invite everyone to come and hear about God’s grace and redemptive power to transform her life



Board Meeting
Monday April 20th at 6:00PM

GLORIFY GOD AMONG THE NATIONS

SEEKING HIM IN ALL GENERATIONS

1 CHRONICLES 16:24 NASB

THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2026

75TH



NATIONALDAYOFPRAYER.ORG

Please come and join us as we
Pray in front of the Curry County Courthouse at "NOON", 7th and Main St. Clovis NM
** In case of bad weather, the National Day of Prayer will move to Legacy Life Church,
622 N Main Street** For more information, please call 575-763-1715.
Reading of the scriptures on Wednesday, May 6, 2026 6:00 am to 10 am
Walk & Pray at Hillcrest Park on Thursday, May 7, 2026 (sun up to sundown)
Hillcrest Park, 10th & Sycamore St.



Mothers' Day is Coming – May 10th

Moms' Day is always an exciting experience for the First Christian Church family. We honor mothers and all women on this very special celebration. There will be a gift for every woman present and some special gifts for the Oldest Mother present, the Youngest Mother present and the Mother with the most descendants present in the service. We will also have a couple of door prizes for some moms.

Following the service there will be a catered Fried Chicken Dinner in the Fellowship Hall served by our men. All Moms and children age 5 and below will eat free and the rest of us will pay a whopping \$2 per person donation. Our Pastor's sermon will honor mothers and so will the service. Plan to pull the whole family together and join the celebration. You'll be glad you did.

Donation Request
Your help is greatly appreciated



Hygiene Kits Update!

We are holding an Assembly Line Event next month, April 6th. A collection bucket is under the FCC instructional table. It's suggested to bring in a multi-pack of any requested items. Content lists are on the main table. Please join us to put the hygiene kits together!

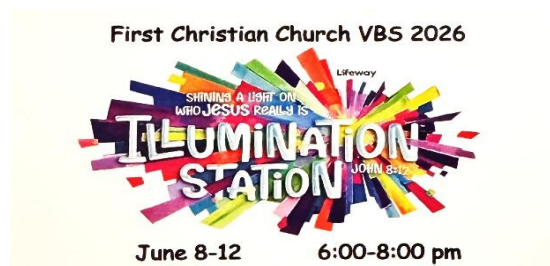
Male

- 1 toothbrush & toothpaste
- 1 razor & shaving cream
- 1 antiperspirant
- 1 comb
- 1 body lotion
- 1 shampoo & conditioner
- 1 Kleenex
- 1 dental floss

Female

- 1 toothbrush & toothpaste
- 1 razor & shaving cream
- 1 antiperspirant
- 1 comb
- 1 body lotion
- 1 shampoo & conditioner
- 1 wipes & Kleenex
- 3 tampons & 4 Kotex pads
- 1 dental floss

SAVE THE DATE!!



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

Welcome

Video – Recovery

Call to Worship

When We All Get to Heaven

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 2:1-5 – Faith Elswick

Opening Prayer – Keith Risdon

Praise Song

It Was Finished Upon That Cross

Guest Testimony – Nikole Thompson

Communion Song

How Deep the Father's Love

Communion Time

Morning Message – Jon Forrest

BUT GOD!

Every Saint Has a Past

Every Sinner Has a Future

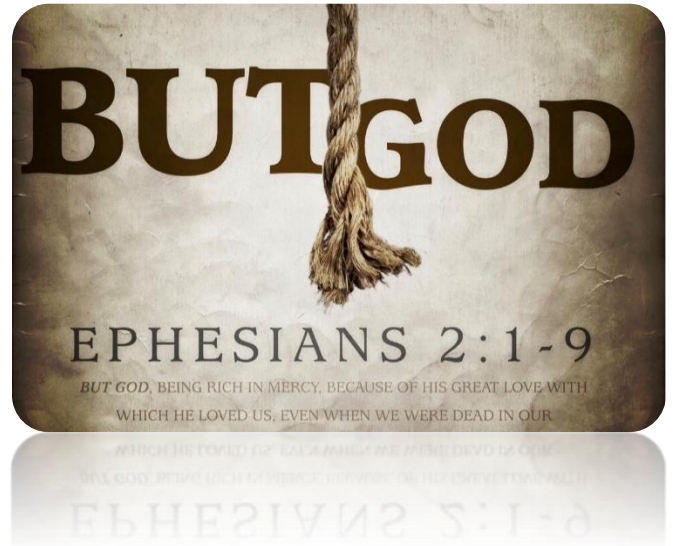
Ephesians 2:1-3

Decision Time

Jesus, Draw Me Close

Closing Prayer

Parting Chorus – *God Is Good*



MEMORY VERSE

Romans 6:23 – For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.



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)

Jerry Bailey – Heart attack. (Dan Peck)

Gary Baker – Recovering from elbow surgery. (Bernice Baker)

Kristen Baker – Tumor will be removed May 1st. Then pathology report. (Bernice Baker)

Kendra Beevers – Health concerns.

Charles Boatman - Home from hospital & recovering.

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

Nov'Ely, Wes'son & E'Mahni Davila & their mother Samantha – Finding a home & loss of their father on 4/1. (Hope Peña's grandchildren & daughter)

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

Steve Fenstermaker – Began 6 months of chemo at the end of March.

Jim Forrest – Health concerns. More tests are coming. (Jon's brother)

Rick Fountain – Recovering from heart valve replacement & bypass surgery at Farwell Care & Rehabilitation Ctr. (Lori Turner)

Coleen Gutierrez & Dan Peck – Personal concerns.

Carla Hammar – Health concerns.

Wilma & Wayne Hammar – Wilma has aggressive breast cancer. (Carla Hammar)

Barbara Hill – Having serious heart problems. (Doug McGregor)
Josh Hutson – Personal concerns.
Denise Keywood – Health issues. (Brenda's daughter)
Kori Koren – MS, multiple falls & injuries. (Judy Baskett)
David Lawson Sr. – Serious health concerns. (Gena Wilkerson)
Bobby Light – Pray for family. (Yvonne Light)
Yvonne Light – Health concerns.
Vida Linton – Personal concerns. (Dear friend of Jessie Strauch)
Jon McCormick – Dealing with shoulder tear & mini stroke. (Brenda Knoll)
Lori McGregor – Lupus. (Doug McGregor's daughter-in-law)
Kaylea McKnight – Young woman had stroke & blood infections & clots in Lubbock TX hospital. (daughter of a friend of Doug McGregor)
Weston Miller – Having seizures. (Lori Turner)
Nicole Monopoly – Health concerns.
Ignacio & Blanca Muñoz – Health concerns. (Brother of Joe Muñoz)
Melissa Muñoz – Struggling with cancer (Joe & Ida Munoz's daughter-in-law)
Marsha Neill – Leaking fluid from brain through nasal cavity. (Colleen Gutierrez)
Chris Pacheco – Serious cancer. Getting bad. (Margaret McCormick's Nephew)
Ashley Pool – Health & lost son in an auto accident. (Rick & Melody Lewis)
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 home in Ruidoso. (Doug McGregor)
Carlos Rivero – Recovering from medical procedure. (Cheryl Forrest)
James Romero - James is now home fighting a pancreatitis infection and gastroparesis, and home health is vital to his recovery. Unfortunately, he has not returned to work because of the weakness caused by this illness. (Joe & Ida Muñoz' son)
Tim Romero – Tim had a major stroke four years ago that left him paralyzed on the entire left side of his body. This has caused him daily struggles as he strives to live. He does have days of depression and does isolate himself because of problems in communicating with others. (Son of Ida & Joe Muñoz)
Laurie S. – Test results were great! No treatments necessary, no chemo. Scheduled CT scans to check on her lungs. (Dianna Thompson's sister)
Wilma Sartain – Health concerns.
Jody Stanbury – Lupus. (Joy Melton's daughter)
Nancy Steele – Health concerns.
Jessie Strauch – Health concerns. (Jon Forrest)
Dianna Thompson – Still recovering from two fractures in her arm.
Ashley Trujillo – Multiple seizures, at covenant in Lubbock. Pray for family. (Bonetta Hutson)
Frank Vace - Cancer. (Brenda Knoll)
Jaden Waltz – At South Plains Rehab in Lubbock, scheduled to go home on Friday 4/17. Prayers for Andrew & Tiffany Forrest & family. Jon & Cheryl Forrest, Shannon & Jared Reeves & family. Oma Sharon Douglas & Titi Kimberly & Jeff & family.
Michael Williams – Home on hospice. (Dan Peck)
Janet Winter - Physical issues. (Jon Forrest)
Unspoken request
=====

Unrest worldwide
Persecuted Christians around the world.
=====

Please pray for our Home Bound
Billie Aucutt – Now home. (Jon Forrest)
Bill Gaedke –At daughter's home in Rio Rancho.
Casey Henry – Now residing at Farwell Care & Rehabilitation Ctr. (Jon Forrest)
Treva Kline – At Wheatfields rm. 109. (Jessie Strauch & Bernice Baker Sister)
Linda Newell – Resident at the Retirement Ranch. (Pat Newell's widow)
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



Celebrate Recovery Is Here!

The First Christian Church family has welcomed a new ministry as a part of our Outreach. Celebrate Recovery, which is a nationwide and local ministry reaches out to people to help them overcome their "Hurts, Habits & Hangups" through the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the influence of the Holy Spirit.

This ministry has already been functioning in Clovis for a number of years in different locations. Our own Bonetta Hutson and Ashley White are part of the leadership team. **The group will meet on Tuesday Evenings, with a light dinner from 5:00-5:45 and a program from 6:00 to 7:30.**

You are invited to attend and gain what you can from this ministry. It is not just for people with official addictions. It is designed to help build people's relationship with Christ and improve their discipleship



► Food Pantry Wish List ◀

Our church has given food boxes to a couple of families in the community earlier this month!

We are experiencing a major depletion and desperately need your help in filling the shelves.

Proteins, veggies, fruit, tomato/spaghetti sauce, soups, and mac & cheese dinners would be great.

We have a good amount of ramen and spaghetti pasta, thank you!

Expiration dates of at least a year or more are requested. Please, no perishables.

We are in need of the following:

- Canned fruits, family-sized or individual – applesauce, pears, peaches, fruit cocktail
- Canned vegetables - carrots, potatoes, green beans, corn, mixed vegetables
- Canned meats – chicken, tuna, Spam, salmon, chili with beans & without
- Macaroni and cheese dinners (no milk or margarine needed)
- Spaghetti sauce, tomato sauce, canned tomatoes
- Soups, canned – tomato, chicken noodle, beef & vegetables, chicken broth
- Beans - canned or dry; baked beans, pinto, etc.
- Shelf stable milk, powdered milk
- Peanut Butter, jam or jelly
- Saltine crackers

Please see Jon Forrest or Dianna Thompson for a food box

We will share whatever comes in.

Thanks for your generosity toward those in need!



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.fccclovis.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.fcccloviss.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 2025 990 IRS reports
& the updated church bylaws.



April

2 - Gus Acosta
7 - Colleen Gutierrez
7 - Ziya Wright
8 - Nichole Monopoly
9 - McKenzie White
11 - Cleo Romary
13 - Lori Turner
16 - Cindy Shaughnessy
16 - Ashley White
18 - Hali Jo Weekley Embry
23 - Bobby Light



April

4 - Oscar & Hope Peña
4 - Kevin & Gena Wilkerson

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

April 2026

Adjusted Servant Ministry
This Week:
Scripture Reading: Faith Elswick
Opening Prayer: Keith Risdon
Welcome Ministry: Bill Wallace
Communion Prep: Debbie Hudson

Upcoming Events

April

Date: 4/20/26

Time: 6:00PM

Location: First Christian Church

Description: Board Meeting

Lead Pastor

Jon Forrest

Elders

J.D. Hileman

Keith Risdon

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

Assisntant Treasurer

Tiffany Forrest



First Christian Church

1700 N. Main, Clovis, NM 88101

Office hours are Monday-Thursday.

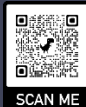
Monday-Thursday 9:00AM - 2:00PM

575-763-7113

fcc@plateautel.net

like us on Facebook & YouTube

Download the app!



Sunday Morning

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, YouTube, FCCCLOVIS app

Tuesday Nights

Celebrate Recovery

5:00 – 5:45 – Light Meal

6:00 – 7:30 – Groups Meet

Wednesday

Wednesday Night Special

5:30 - 6:05 - meal

6:15 - 7:15 – Bible study

Nursery - pre k

Elementary age children (K-5) Bible Bunch

“The Immortals Middle & High school ages

Adults Bible Study Lead by Pastor, Jon Forrest

