



Lifting Praise

Issue 37 | Vol: 09

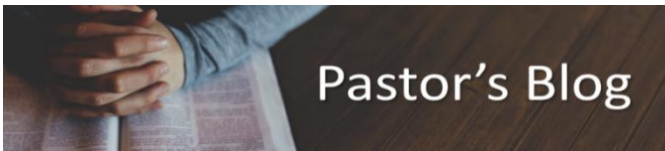
September 9, 2026



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

Danny Gokey - He's So Worthy



Pastor's Blog

Remembering 9/11

The Upward Look, by Jon Forrest

On September 11, Lt. Col. Brian Birdwell (from U.S. Army Headquarters) had just stepped into a Pentagon hallway when the fireball from the hijacked plane hit him. After recovering from the initial shock, Birdwell realized he was on fire. "Jesus, I'm coming to see you," he remembers praying. When doctors finally attended to him at the Washington Burn Center, they found second- and third-degree burns over 40 percent of Birdwell's body. To save him, they performed several skin graft operations. President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura visited the Washington Burn Center on September 13. Among those they visited was Birdwell. Laura Bush went into Brian's room and spoke to him for about a minute. They were life-long acquaintances. She then turned to Brian's wife, Mel, who had been at the hospital for about two-and-a-half days. She was dirty, grimy, and wore a bloodstained shirt. Despite this, Laura hugged her for what Mel said seemed like an eternity, just as if Mel was one of her closest family members. Laura then told Brian and Mel that there was "someone" there to see him. The President walked in. Standing by Brian's bedside, the President told Colonel Birdwell that he was very proud of them both and regarded them as heroes. The President then saluted Brian. Brian slowly began to return the salute, taking about 15 to 20 seconds to get his hand up to his head because of his bandaged arms. During all of this, President Bush never moved. He dropped his salute only when Brian was finished with his. Birdwell lives now with renewed purpose. "I'm a walking miracle. Christ got me out of the fire. In him not taking me, I have a mission to complete. He'll tell me what it is in due time."

-adapted



From the most devastating terrorist attack on American soil come numerous stories of miraculous survival and heroic acts by regular people. But for each of these there are multiple stories that of lives that did not make it. Families were shredded into rags by the loss of loved ones who just didn't make it. There were even some people who were never found but are assumed dead. In spite of the blend of happy and tragic endings, God was still there to help pick up the pieces. Many people turned to God for strength and hope. Briefly following this event it seemed as though our nation pulled together in unity and people began to live for God in droves.

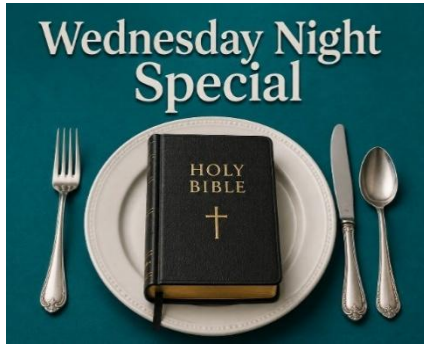
However, it did not take long for the nation to slip back into old habits of self-centeredness, debauchery and divisiveness. What happened? Sadly, it appears that the turn toward God was not internalized. It wasn't hearts that turned it was the flesh. Fear and heartache drove people to God, but not for revival. Reform took place outwardly, but revival of the soul was not widely experienced.

Many of us had hoped our country would unite under Jesus Christ, but that was not the case. If we as a nation are going to come together for healing it will take Revival of hearts and souls, transformed by the love and power of Jesus Christ. How does that start? It starts with me and spreads to you and then to everyone.

Sunday at First Christian Church we will remember the lost, honor the survivors and look to Jesus Christ for healing from the wounds and scars of 9/11 and other national pain. Join us for this very special approach to healing. The message of the day will come from 2 Chronicles 7:14 and surrounding verses and will be titled **A TIME OF REMEMBRANCE AND REFLECTION; "After 25 Years, Where Is the Healing?"**

God bless you as we look to Jesus for national and personal healing.

Remembering,
Jon



Wednesday Night Adult Bible Study Tonight

Tonight we will launch out with our initial study from our series **Famous Last Words (Lesson 1)** with a lesson titled, **A Servant's Heart** based on **(John 13:1-17)**. Humility is a difficult lesson that Jesus would teach these men who had come from humble surroundings, but would be soon the most important people in the Christian Church. They needed to see this testimony in living color of their Master, taking on the towel and role of the humblest of servants. We too, could use a dose of this spiritual medicine in our lives. Come tonight and live together with other disciples

who will get a dose of it too. See you there.

Everyone is welcome to this mid-week re-charge for spiritual batteries.
Find out what makes Wednesday Nights so Special.

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:

9/9 – Tacos

9/16 – Nacho Wednesday

Family Game Night
Saturday September 19th
6:00PM – 8:00PM



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

Video – September 11th, 26 Years Later

TAPPS – Nicholas Stephenson (Band Director, Gattis Middle School)

Welcome

Call to Worship

Battle Hymn of the Republic

Scripture Reading: 2 Chronicles 7:13-15 – David Elswick

Opening Prayer – John Butts

Praise Medley

Build Your Kingdom Here

Hymn of Heaven

Intercessory Prayer

Communion Song

Amazing Grace/My Chains Are Gone

The Lord's Supper

Special Music - Bonetta Hutson – The Statue of Liberty

Morning Message – Jon Forrest

A TIME OF REMEMBRANCE & REFLECTION

“After 25 Years, Where is the Healing?”

2 Chronicles 7:14

Decision Time

The Savior is Waiting

Announcements

Benediction

Parting Chorus – God Bless America



MEMORY VERSE

Psalm 33:12 – Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people he chose for his inheritance.



Prayer Requests

ATTENTION: Please let us know if there are any changes, removals or updates before Friday every week.

Bernice Baker – Health concerns.

Beverly B. – Multiple lumps in pelvis. (Kimberly Wright)

Jerry Bailey – Heart attack. (Dan Peck)

Kendra Beevers – Health concerns.

Christian Bernal – Custody battle. (Carla Hammar)

Charles Boatman – Health concerns.

Mike & Ella Boyles – She has pneumonia & heart issues. (Dianna Boatman)

Buster – Recovering at home from injuries. (Yvonne Light's Grandson)

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

Sean Conrad – TDY Airforce. Pray for family.

Megan Curtis – Throat cancer at M.D. Anderson. (Judy Baskett's granddaughter)

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

Dorothy Dudley – Fell & is sore. (Pam Wallace)

Ricky Fountain – Passed away. Please pray for family & friends. Memorial service at FCC Sept. 14th

Steve Fenstermaker – Chemo treatments Appointment this week to determine future plans.

Tara Gagner – Recovering from major heart surgery. (Dan & Coleen's niece)

Lynette Gauna – Personal concerns.

Kyle Gerzon – Recovering from frightening medical episode. (Jon Forrest)
Ruby Gonzales – Health issues. (Bonetta Hutson)
Coleen Gutierrez & Dan Peck – Personal concerns.
Mike Hamilton – Health concerns.
Carla Hammar – On going medical issues.
Wilma & Wayne Hammar – Wilma has aggressive breast cancer. (Carla Hammar)
Barbara Hill – Having serious heart problems & Parkinsons. (Doug McGregor)
Judy Hill – Dealing with loss of husband. (Doug McGregor)
Maxine Hinderlite – Serious health concerns. (Bonetta Hutson)
Josh Hutson – Personal concerns.
Brenda Knoll – Health concerns. On going Dr. appointments.
Kori Koren – MS, multiple falls & injuries. (Judy Baskett)
Cody & Selena Kroeker – She has Thyroid cancer. (Dianna Boatman)
David Lawson Sr. – Serious health concerns. (Gena Wilkerson)
Bobby Light – Pray for family. (Yvonne Light)
Vida Linton – Personal concerns. (Dear friend of Jessie Strauch)
Lori McGregor – Lupus. (Doug McGregor's daughter-in-law)
Ignacio & Blanca Muñoz – Health concerns. (Brother of Joe Muñoz)
Joe & Ida Muñoz – Joe is on hospice in San Antonio, TX.
Melissa Muñoz – Struggling with cancer (Joe & Ida Munoz's daughter-in-law)
Marsha Neill – Leaking fluid from brain through nasal cavity. (Colleen Gutierrez)
Joyce Norman – Health. (Bonetta Hutson)
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)
Tim Romero – Tim had a major stroke & is paralyzed. Suffering with daily struggles. (Son of Ida & Joe Muñoz)
Wilma Sartain – Asks for healing prayers. (Bonetta Hutson)
Nancy Steele – Health concerns.
Trey Steele – Personal concerns. (Jessie Strauch)
Jessie Strauch – Health concerns. (Jon Forrest)
Ashley Trujillo – Multiple seizures. Pray for family. (Bonetta Hutson)
Jim Tulett – Now at Coronado Care Ctr. in Portales with 2 hairline fractures.
Rachel Wallace – Recovering from surgery. (Bonetta Hutson)
Jaden Waltz – Recovering from serious burns and dealing with college life in Socorro.
Janet Winter - Physical issues. (Jon Forrest)
James Wright – Diagnosed with cancer. (Jeff Wright's father) (Wright/Douglas families)
Kimberly Wright – Personal concerns.
Ruthie Yarbrough – Pain.

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Persecuted Christians around the world.

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Please pray for our Home Bound

Billie Aucutt – Hospice care. (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)
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 Thursday at noon 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

The AMAZING things you can do with the APP!!

You can view the Upcoming Events, View the Newsletter, Prayer Request, listen to the audio Bible

And SO MUCH MORE!! Download the FREE APP TODAY!!!



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

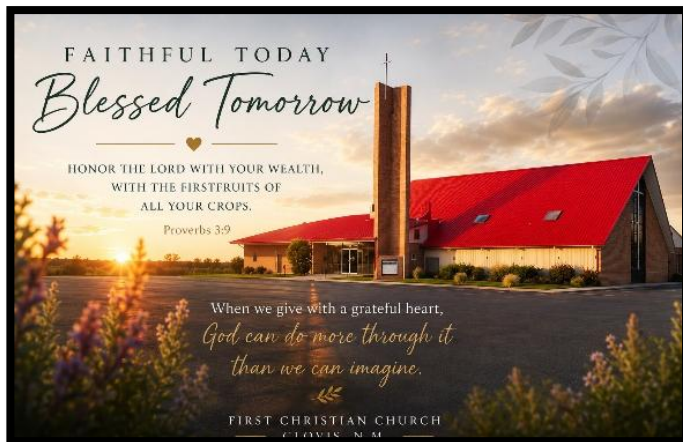
If you miss our morning Worship Services or want to see them again, they are all stored on the FCC YouTube Channel and on our website, www.fccclovis.com under the tab named Media and on your phone with the FCC app.

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.fccclovis.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.



September

4 - Mary Couvillon
7 - John Butts
10 - Sherry Butts
12 - Paul Acosta
12 - Adriana White
15 - Kyree Kennard
17 - Charles Boatman
18 - Cheryl Forrest
28 - David Elswick



September

2 - Chris & Elizabeth Townsley
4 - Joe & Ida Muñoz
8 - Bill & Margaret McCormick
21 - Jeff & Kimberly Wright
30 - Dave & Sandy Williams

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

September 2026

Adjusted Servant Ministry

This Week:

Scripture Reading: David Elswick

Opening Prayer: John Butts

Welcome Ministry: Bill Wallace

Communion Prep: Sharon Douglas

Upcoming Events!

September

Date: 9/19/26

Time: 6PM-8PM

Location: First Christian Church

Description: Family Game Night/ Pizza

Date: 9/21/26

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 Baker

Joe Muñoz

Church Secretary

Hope Peña

Nursery Attendant

Sharon Douglas

Associate Pastor

Joshua McVey

Deacons

Gua Acosta

Gary Baker

Jerry Elliott

Clark Elswick

Steve Fenstermaker

Andrew Forrest

Doug McGregor

Treasure

Keith Risdon

Assistant Treasurer

Kimberly Wright

Tiffany Forrest



First Christian Church

1700 N. Main, Clovis, NM 88101

Office hours:

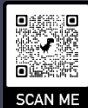
Monday-Thursday 8:00AM - 2:00PM

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 at Facebook Live,
You Tube, FCCCLOVIS app

Tuesday Nights

Celebrate Recovery

5:00 – 5:45 – Light Meal

6:00 – 7:30 – Groups Meet

Wednesday

Wednesday Night Special

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

