



**November 2017, Newsletter
First Christian Church of Santa Fe (Disciples of Christ)**



Join Us in Worship every Sunday at 10:30 AM

MISSION STATEMENT: In communion with Christ and with the world, First Christian Church serves God by building spiritual bridges between people. Inspired by Christ and the Spirit, we plant seeds of caring in the world, using gifts of music, active service, teaching and openness. United in Holy Faith, individuals work together to create a unique way of sharing faith.



**Congregational
Business Meeting
December 3rd
after worship**

**SPECIAL CHRISTMAS
OFFERING 2017**



During the month of December, we will be receiving the annual Christmas Offering. The focus of this offering is Tennyson Center for Children at Colorado Christian Home in Denver, Colorado.

Our financial support aids the Center in meeting its mission. Tennyson Center works with children, youth, and their families to overcome a variety of life crises, including abuse and neglect.

The philosophy of the Center is that with proper support, children and their families possess the capacity to heal. It is the role of the staff to help them overcome obstacles and provide services that embrace the five values of trauma informed care: safety, choice, collaboration, empowerment, and trustworthiness. We are partners in this ministry. Please prayerfully consider a Christmas gift to Tennyson Center and its children.



**THANKSGIVING OFFERING
to support
DISCIPLES of CHRIST
COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES**

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is committed to higher education. Currently, over 50,000 students attend fourteen Disciples related colleges and universities or seven seminaries and divinity houses.

Your gift, given any time during November, for this special offering will help support the work of these institutions of higher learning in many different ways.



From the Pastor

In this month of thanksgiving, we have so much to be grateful for as a community. Our worshipping community has continued to grow and reach new people. Our broader community of influence has continued to grow. Our impact on even broader communities in Santa Fe and New Mexico and beyond, has continued to grow.



One thing I am very grateful for is the new presence and partnership of Santa Fe Vipassana Sangha.* This month they officially embraced FCC Santa Fe as their new spiritual home. We had a beautiful blessing ceremony on November 7th to inaugurate the partnership and to bless the space.

We joined in silent meditation together, the Fellowship Hall illuminated with warm light from lamps, adorned with beautiful vibrant flowers, colorful cloths, and paper screens. After the meditation, we formed a circle, and went around the room offering blessings. I started with the first blessing, sharing my hopes for the partnership to be one of using our spiritual practice to bring liberation to “all beings.” Many in the room spoke of their gratitude for the peace of the church space, and for the commitment we have to express our faith in the community through social action. The feeling was very warm and connected. One member said poignantly that she feels our two communities were one family but we didn’t know it yet, and that she feels no sense of ‘us and them.’ It was a hopeful time of new energy and blessing in this space we are blessed to share.

As we move from “Ordinary Time” into “Advent,” our invitation to wake up and pay attention to where and who God is and what God is doing is heightened. I invite us all into these weeks of gratitude and awareness with an awake spirit. Please lift up our unfolding ministries in your prayers as you watch and wait for the annual coming of the Light we celebrate in the humble Birth of new possibilities.

In Gratitude,

Reverend Tiffany Curtis

*Please see page (4) for more information about the Santa Fe Vipassana Sangha.

Birthdays

November

23 – Tiffany Curtis
30 – John Archie

December

9 – Craig Borner
25 – Edna Emerson



CONTACTING the PASTOR:

Church Phone: 505-983-3433 (checked daily, Sunday-Thursday)

Email:

rev.tiffany.disciples.santafe@gmail.com (checked daily, Sunday-Thursday)

Drop-In office hours: Feel free to drop by Wednesday and Thursday, 2-4 pm.





Please consider the following for your prayers:

- For those affected by violence of all kinds throughout the world.
- For all impacted by natural disasters throughout the world.
- For those alone and for those feeling grief and loss during this holiday season.
- For us to learn to better care, respect, and cooperate with the earth, our common home.
- For all who are incarcerated & for their families and friends who are impacted.
- For our neighbors living on the streets - especially the women, children, and young adults, who often go unnoticed in their housing insecurity.
- For all who are traveling during the Thanksgiving & Christmas seasons, that they will arrive & return safely.
- For immigrants & refugees and all who are seeking a safe place to call home.
- For those who are sick, in the hospital, or facing chronic health concerns, and for their friends and families who care for them.

• Pray also for other churches and helpful organizations each week:

- Nov. 19-25: Latter Day Saints in Santa Fe & Feeding Santa Fe
- Nov. 26-Dec. 2: Unity Santa Fe & the Santa Fe Dreamers
- Dec. 3-9: Community Table & Tewa Women United
- Dec. 10-16: HaMakon & Public Service Employees, Military, Care Givers
- Dec. 17-23: The Celebration of Santa Fe & Jews, Moslems & Christians in the Holy Land



Service Schedule

Date	Elder	Deacon
Nov. 19	Nancy Scheer	Anita Hett
Nov. 26	no elder	Neil Curran
Dec. 3	Bob Cady	Craig Borner
Dec. 10	Nancy Scheer	Anita Hett
Dec. 17	Ed Bethel	Neil Curran

If a Deacon or Elder needs a substitute, please call the church at 983-3433.

A reporter asked a 104-year-old woman: "What do you think is the best thing about being 104?"
"No peer pressure," she replied.

-via George Goldtrtap
JoyfulNoiseletter, Sept.-Oct. 2017

More folks are needed for the committees handling the numerous tasks that keep the church functioning. Consider volunteering to serve Christ and your church. Talk with Anita Hett or Craig Borner, Co-Presidents of the congregation or with Pastor Tiffany for more information. There is no requirement for you to be a church member to serve on most of the committees, just your insight, knowledge and enthusiasm.

COMMITTEES ARE:

Buildings & Grounds	Mission & Justice
Worship	Fellowship
Personnel	Finance





The Santa Fe Vipassana Sangha, or Santa Fe Insight Meditation Community, began in the 1980's as a group of friends meditating in members' living rooms, and meditation remains the central focus of their spiritual practice. They have many members who participate at various levels, and their weekly e-newsletter goes out to 498 people.

Although many of their members identify as Buddhists, others retain ties to other religious traditions such as branches of Judaism or Christianity, or have a secular interest in meditation and/or in Buddhist philosophy and psychology. The American Vipassana lineage derives from the Theravada branch of Buddhism in Southeast Asia, the earliest of the Buddhist traditions.

The sangha members are grateful to share space with FCC Santa Fe for many reasons, including: increased peace and stability for their activities, and a long-standing interest in moving closer to the center of town for easier access and increased opportunities for diversity in participation. Many of the sangha's members resonate with the social action emphasis at First Christian Church, and see a possibility for collaboration with our community in that area.

The programs and activities which SFVS will be hosting at First Christian Church include:

- A weekly Tuesday night program, which includes a 45 minute sitting (meditation) period from 6:15 pm to 7:00 pm followed by a dharma talk (similar to a sermon or reflection), which ends around 8:00 pm. Average attendance is 20-25 people weekly.
- An Introduction to Insight Meditation class, which runs for four weeks every other month on Tuesdays.
- A Community Night every other month on a Tuesday evening, with tea, snacks, and discussion.
- An annual Holiday Party potluck on a Tuesday evening.
- Four times a year day-long meditation retreats on Saturdays.

To learn more, visit their website: <https://santafevipassana.org/>

Words from Joan Mitchell, Acting Board President of SFVS, edited in form and content by Rev. Tiffany Curtis

Save the date:



- Nov. 26** - Thanksgiving Service
- Dec. 3** - First Sunday of Advent, Church Business Meeting following worship
- Dec. 7** - Community Table, 5:30 pm
- Dec. 20** - Annual SF Homeless Person Memorial - Rev. Tiffany giving reflection

Every Day; Any Time: visit our church web site at:
<http://santafedisciples.org>

First Christian Church of Santa Fe
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