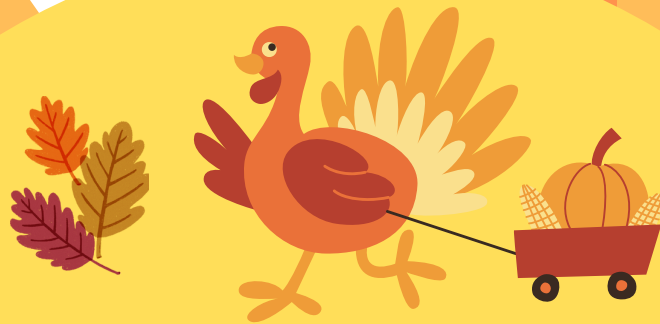


NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER



HAPPY THANKSGIVING EVERYONE!!

I hope everyone had their fill of friends, family, & food over this holiday. I know we sure did! Matthew & I attended 3 different Thanksgiving meals, one of which being our annual CSC Friendsgiving. This is a time for international students or out of state students who aren't going home, to have a place to gather, fellowship, & eat (sometimes their first!) Thanksgiving meal! To make this happen we reach out to the surrounding churches to help provide food & stick around to mingle with students too. We had great support, an abundance of food, & 90-100 people there! It was pretty amazing. Throughout this Thanksgiving season, I've been thinking about a question someone at church asked me & I want to tease your brains as well; Instead of asking "what are you thankful for?", ask "to whom are you thankful to?" Isn't that good!? While it's good to reflect on what you are thankful for, don't forget to thank God for WHO he has blessed you with as well!!

CRAFT FAIR!

At the beginning of this month we joined our very first craft fair! I was super excited for this experience. The church we attend (Netherwood Park) hosted their 2nd annual craft fair & I signed up to sell some paintings- Matthew even joined me & made some great homemade wood-wick candles (then I decorated them with different verses)! I had so much fun seeing people from church & meeting some new friends as well. Everyone was so sweet & encouraging! Matthew sold 4 candles and I sold 3 paintings; it was nice to make some extra cash for the upcoming Christmas season!

2ND GIRLS CRAFT NIGHT

This month for craft night we painted Christmas ornaments (since I won't be having one next month due to school being out) & there were only 4 girls that came. That's okay though! Due to another event being on the Friday I was planning on doing craft night, I had to move it to Thursday which is less convenient for most of the girls, plus the lady hosting lived about 35 minutes away. When I found out only a couple people were coming, I was pretty bummed & felt Satan trying to tear me down & tempt me to just cancel the whole thing. But the Lord prevailed! God reminded me that I'm not doing this for numbers, but for good quality time spent with fellow Women of God. And when I looked at it, most of the girls coming were who we would call "fringe people", which means they're involved with the ministry, but still getting plugged in & show up here and there. PLUS 3 of them needed rides! What an awesome opportunity! I thank God for the change of mindset & heart & am happy to say that we had a wonderful time & God really blessed that fellowship!

NOVEMBER AWESOMENESS

CAMPING!

During the month of November we have had many ministry opportunities and it has been a joy to be a part of it! One weekend I went camping (glamping if you ask Philip) with some guys who have been attending the same Bible study as us and it was a great time! There is definitely something to be said about going out into nature, escaping the world, and sharing good, vulnerable conversation around a campfire. Camping or “glamping” is one of my favorite things to do with people because I believe it brings out a different side of people. Needless to say, it was an excellent time and I really enjoyed bonding with the couple of guys.

ACCH AUCTION!

On another occasion this month we were able to help host an auction for ACCH (*Albuquerque Christian Children's Home*) where we got to dress up super fancy and help convince people to bid on items all in order to raise money for the children's home. It was a super cool experience and anybody can tell that the items or the things for bid aren't the real reason people are there, but it is to help out a super cool organization that wants to provide homes and good families for kids who don't have any. Things like tool boxes, paintings, a giant fork, and other art would go for tens of thousands of dollars; that doesn't happen unless there is a lot of love involved. It totaled over \$300,000 raised for the home after the event!

HOUSE PARTIES!!!

Finally and consistently, we have continued to bring many people into our house because we believe it is one of the best ways to get to know people and do ministry. That is exactly what we have wanted to use our house for; to bless other people like many have blessed us. Some of the people who have come over have been students in college, others in their late twenties, and some people with a knowledge of Jesus and some who don't follow Jesus. One guy named Pablo in particular has been a super difficult person to talk to at Thursday Lunches and it seems as though he tries to actively shut down any conversation anybody tries to start with him (Whether its about Jesus or not). God revealed to me though that I believe he does that for a reason and so through a lesson at church and the prodding of the Holy Spirit, I decided to invite him over to our house and I don't regret it one bit. A seemingly difficult and even impossible person to talk to turned into a super friendly, complimentary stunning person who we quite enjoyed talking to at our house. There is a lesson to be learned here and that is love. If I can't love or invite someone to my house that doesn't necessarily give me love back, what does that say about my character? A better question: Would Jesus love someone who doesn't deserve it but still love that person anyway? Oh right, he did. It's both cool and rewarding to know that God is still teaching me to grow in his awesome, amazing and unwavering love!

NETHERWOOD PARK

This is long overdue but we just wanted to tell you more about the awesome church we go to here in ABQ now that we've been attending for a couple months! We go to Netherwood Park Church of Christ, which is conveniently only 5 minutes away from our house! We have absolutely loved it. Back in July when our house wasn't finished and not livable yet, we reached out to a couple named Pat and Mary Louise Brown and they welcomed us into their home for a whole week. Since then, we see them every Sunday as they stand at the entrance to greet people at the doors, and they check up on us frequently. They certainly have become our church mom and dad! An elder named Curtis took us out to eat one of our first weeks here and told us "well you guys are part of my flock so if you ever need anything, need help, or any resources, I'm here for you!" Curtis also texts us pretty much monthly and always makes sure we're doing okay. Another couple is the Whittenbergs, Kyle and Kathy- also an elder. They give us hugs and ask about work down at the Student Center, and even got involved with helping provide food for our Friendsgiving! There are so many great families and couples at Netherwood I can't name them all on here! Ah but we can't forget to mention the sweet elderly couple Greg and Darlene that we sit next to every Sunday and chat with and Diedra and Aaron who invited us to lunch at their home on a Sunday afternoon. We look forward to every Sunday morning where we get to join the body of Christ and are just filled with so much love and encouragement from them.

Netherwood also helps support us and the work we're doing at the Christian Student Center and are slowly but surely getting more involved in our work down there! We couldn't ask for a better or more supportive congregation here in Albuquerque.



isaac's birthday on thanksgiving



international friends!



Camping or Glamping?



girls craft night



House Party!!



craft fair!

ACCH Auction



tawney's birthday



campus wide worship night!

