



The Builder

First Christian Church *Midland*

December 15, 2024 Volume 69 Issue 39



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Recent & Upcoming Events
Santa Comes to FCC
Night In Bethlehem

WEEK AT A GLANCE

**SUN
DEC
15** 10AM SUNDAY SCHOOL
11AM WORSHIP
6PM NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM

**TUE-
THUR
DEC
17-19** 5-6PM MIDWEEK WALKING GROUP
IN GYM/FAMILY LIFE CENTER

**WED
DEC
18** 7AM MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST
9AM FOOD PANTRY
5:30PM EXECUTIVE MEETING
IN BEDFORD ROOM

**SUN
DEC
22** 10AM SUNDAY SCHOOL
11AM WORSHIP

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Rev. David Chisham
Senior Minister

ADVENT JOY

Have you ever noticed that there's one pink candle in the Advent wreath? Three purple candles and one pink.

And the pink candle is always lit on the third week of Advent. If it was the first or last week, maybe that would mean something, but the third week???

The third week is a special week in Advent because we round a corner in this month-long observance. The first week is all about hope and expectations we look forward to being fulfilled. The second week is about peace, which still has an element of unfulfilled expectation. We can experience peace, but we still long for God's greater Shalom to fill our world. Now this third week we turn to joy. The wonderful thing about joy is that we can fully rejoice even while we're waiting on God's plan to unfold.

The Apostle Paul wrote the book of Philippians from a prison. We don't know if it was dank and wet, or if he had some freedom as prisoners sometimes had in the ancient world; nevertheless, his movement was limited, and he speaks of desiring to be free. Yet despite his imprisonment he gives a powerful command to all of us: Rejoice in the Lord always; and again I say rejoice!

Of all the books of the New Testament, Philippians has the most to say about rejoicing and being joyful. Paul's hope for freedom was, perhaps, only a dim light. His desire for a more peaceful situation was certainly deep. Yet in his

present circumstance he finds every reason to rejoice. He rejoices that his imprisonment is helping him spread the Gospel message. He rejoices that whether he is delivered or not, Christ will be glorified. He rejoices that the shackles of his past life have been released, and now he lives only for Christ.

What are you joyful about this season? What is bringing a sense of new life to you? What hopes do you see being fulfilled in your life and the lives of your loved ones?

When Mary, the mother of Jesus, heard that she would bear God's son, we can only imagine how awesome and fearful that message must have been for her. But she too joins in the rejoicing, crying out, "My Soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for God has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed!"

**Rejoice in the Lord always;
and again I say rejoice!**

As we draw near to "the big day", let our hearts be filled with joy, for God is already at work in the world. Whatever our circumstance, God is faithful to all generations of those who fear him!

So back to that pink candle—pink is a color of joy and celebration. It's a sign that something is indeed changing, and God's promises must be celebrated!

See you at the Table,



Thank you for your generosity and faithfulness
serving God together in 2024.
We look forward to working with you to help reach our
community in 2025 with the love of Jesus Christ.
Merry Christmas, Your Church Staff



Birth Announcement

**IT'S A
BOY**

**On Saturday, December 7, 2024
Alton Ray Harvey
Made his appearance into this world.
Alton weighed 6lbs, 10oz & 19.5" long.
He is the Son of
Hunter and Courtney Harvey.**



**Alton is the grandson of Kris Evers, the great nephew of Lisa Kilborn,
& the cousin of Hunter Kilborn.**

Congratulations to the Harvey Family!

We pray for God's blessings upon the newest member of the Harvey Family.



FCC Caroling Party



CHILDREN'S CORNER

Sunday School

Preschool/Kinder & 1st – 5th will continue listening and learning more about the Christmas Story,

Children's Church

All the children are hearing more about the Birth of Jesus and creating special art projects.

No Sunday Afternoon Programs until January.

NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM

Sunday, December 15th, 6:00 – 7:30

Family Life Center

Come experience Bethlehem on that night long, long ago when the Baby Jesus came to earth.

Many crafts to create, many foods to eat.

(The foods are not all familiar snacks – so come try something different.)

Santa Visits FCC

Thank You to everyone who volunteered at our Santa comes to FCC event. You are the reason for its success!



CLC
Watching Polar Express with anticipation.



*Joy Singleton's
100th Birthday Celebration*

Saturday, January 4, 2025

Come and Go (2-4pm)

First Christian Church Parlor

Please no gifts, we just want you to celebrate with us!

Prayer List

Those in need of prayer:

Abraham Ortega
Virgie Lewis
Tere Valero
Dave Burgard
Nancy Stanley
Patsy Hill
Fred Yates
Vincent Cooper
Pat Marshall
Ginny Estes
Joshua Harrison
Mary Beth Corbett
Linda Taylor
Lisa Craven
Mark Cranford
Cricket Harrison
Betty Odom
Fred Schwiening
Nicky Rodriguez
Lana Cooley
Carol Cook
C.C. Petteway
Pat Chambers
Kathy Landrum
Sheila Crudgington
Robert Crudgington
Gary Thompson

Military:

Lee Anna Crudgington
Tyler Brown— *grandson
of Lyn Brown*

Families, Friends Beyond**FCC**

Cindy Garcia—
CLC Teacher
Barrett Wood—
cousin of Ginny Estes
Jay Warren —

friend of Pat Marshall
Kairos Conde—
nephew of Olivia Espino
Grayson Pickett—
friend of Jeweli Flores
Al Schorre—*friend of
Sharon Boyd*
Robin Diegan & Jason
Diegan—
cousins of Ginny Estes
Amanda Bryant—
*friend of Dave & Kathy
Cromwell*
Freda Benton
Amanda Lee—
friend of Janice Ford
Reymondo Garcia—
brother of Maria Vinson
Gary Kennedy
*friends of
Lauren & Justin Disney*
Lee Stone—
brother of Jean Jones
Fred Copeland—
father of Lauren Disney
Ed Keah
friend of Joy Singleton
J.M. Moore —
father of Kathy Landrum
Kairos Conde —
nephew of Olivia Espino
Oscar Garcia —
*brother of Amparo
Olguin*

Birthdays

12/02 Ryleigh Kosanke
12/04 Remy Tercero
12/04 Troy Campbell
12/05 Zoe Hodges
12/05 Doug Wills
12/08 J Ray Stewart
12/10 **McKynlea Estrada**
12/12 Pat Chambers
12/15 Kris Evers
12/15 Judy Hunnicutt
12/16 **Jaxon Jones**
12/16 Angela Mainwaring
12/17 **Nathaniel Dzuik**
12/17 Joe Wright
12/18 Lillian Cranford
12/20 Kori Chisham
12/20 Gail Caudle
12/20 Patsy Hill
12/21 Elizabeth Resch
12/23 Sara Gail Cranford
12/29 Dustin Hattenbach
12/29 Cinnimon Stanford

Anniversaries

12/05 Dean & Karen Rucker
12/16 Clay & Cinnimon Stanford
12/13 Mike & Brenda Harrison
12/13 Eddie & Linda Hyatt
12/18 Jim & Brenda Morris
12/19 Tommy & Connie Hawkins
12/19 David & Kori Chisham
12/21 Ray & Austella Berry
12/21 Jed & Patti Heard
12/22 Cecilio & Jeweli Flores
12/24 Butch & Sherry Ladd
12/24 Marco & Joann Cardozo
12/27 David & Peggy Davis
12/30 Bob & Carolyn Jones

Youth and Children are in Red



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