



The Builder

First Christian Church
Midland

January 15, 2025 Volume 70 Issue 1



WEEK AT A GLANCE

SUN
JAN
19
10AM SUNDAY SCHOOL
11AM WORSHIP

MON
DEC
20
CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED
MLK

WED
JAN
22
7AM MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST
9AM FOOD PANTRY

SUN
JAN
26
10AM SUNDAY SCHOOL
11AM WORSHIP
4:30PM CHILDREN'S EVENING PROGRAM

CONTACT INFORMATION:

432-682-2541

1301 W LOUISIANA AVE., MIDLAND, TX 79701

FCCMIDLAND.ORG

OFFICE1@FCCMIDLAND.ORG



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Rev. David Chisham
Senior Minister

SEEING THE INVISIBLE PERSON

When we think about the patriarchs and matriarchs of the faith, there are a number of obvious names that come to mind. As I'm reading through Genesis again, many of these names sound like old friends to me—Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob and Leah and Rachel. We know much more about the men than the women from these stories. Many times, it feels like we're only hearing what happened to the women rather than hearing them have agency and self-determination themselves.

Mixed in with those names is one who has often been overlooked in her role as a fore-parent of the faith—Hagar, the handmaiden to Sarah. It's difficult to know how she felt about being compelled to be a surrogate mother for Abraham and Sarah; the book of Genesis is clear that God was not a part of Sarah and Abraham's workaround for Abraham to father an heir to his wealth and legacy. Perhaps Hagar saw this as a way to gain standing in the family, but it's clear that Sarah was never going to let that happen.

Through those chapters in the book of Genesis, whenever Hagar is around Sarah and Abraham, she has no choice and no voice. Genesis insinuates that Hagar began to "despise" Sarah once Hagar became pregnant, but no evidence is offered—only Sarah's word is given and she comes across as having a jealous tendency to me.

Only after Hagar is forced to leave by Sarah do we hear her say anything. In the wilderness, resting by a spring alongside a roadway, an angel finds

Hagar alone. The angel asks Hagar what she's doing there, and Hagar replies, "I'm running away from my mistress." That sentence is half of the recorded words spoken by Hagar in the biblical record. Though she's an important character in the story, she's almost invisible.

Hagar is not alone in the world. There are so many who are invisible and voiceless and are trafficked in abusive relationships. Here in our own community, I've been reading stories about sex trafficking happening right under our noses in massage parlors. I feel like I shouldn't have to say these things because we all agree, but that is a true blight on the community. I can only imagine the damage that is done to the innocence of those enslaved under such conditions. As much as I hope that our community authorities can do something about the situation, I also hope that we can throw more light on those who are being trafficked and who are virtually invisible.

As Hagar was sitting beside the spring on the roadway, likely feeling quite lost, the angel advises her to return home, because her son Ishmael would become a father of a great nation of people. In that moment, Hagar has a realization—though she may be invisible to her mistress, she is not invisible to the Lord. There we hear the other half of what Hagar said. She gives a name to the Lord: El Roi, saying, "You are the God who sees me, for I have now seen the One who sees me."

I'd like to say that Hagar's return to Abraham and Sarah was met with hugs and a new appraisal of her value; it wasn't, and about ten or so years later Hagar and Ishmael would be banished from the house. But again, God would see and provide for them both, and Ishmael did indeed go on to become a powerful family, because the Lord was watching over him too.

God sees those who might otherwise be overlooked and socially invisible.

May we see others with the same eyes that God sees.

As you re-read the Scriptures this year, keep your eyes open for the “lesser” characters—they need to be seen and their voice needs to be heard too!

It’s evidence to me that though the “main story” of Genesis is about Abraham and Sarah and Isaac and their family, the Lord is not heartless or narrow-visioned. God sees those who might otherwise be overlooked and socially invisible.

See you at the Table,



Our Deepest Sympathy

We extend our heartfelt sympathy and prayers to the following families
Who have recently lost a loved one.

The Friday family: Tom Friday passed away on December 17th, 2024. Tom was the father of David Friday. Tom’s funeral was held on December 23, 2024 at First Christian Church, Midland TX.

The Cook family: Carol Cook passed away on December 18, 2024. Carol was the wife of Kelly Cook, mother of David Cook and Elizabeth Resch, and grandmother of Hayden Resch and Elise Cook. Carol’s memorial service was on January 7, 2024 at First Christian Church, Midland TX.



Rev. Remy Tercero
Associate Minister

A SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

A handful of people have asked me about the spiritual practice I brought up in my communion meditation on January 5th, so I wanted to type the steps out for anyone who would like to try it out.

The practice that I am going to mention you have more than likely heard before, but after recently trying it again myself I fully believe that this practice could help you. The practice is centered around writing down all of the stressors in your life and identifying what you can and cannot control.

I encourage you to write down both big and small stressors. When you thought about stressors it popped into your head so it is important to you, even if it may seem small.

Step 1

Take a moment, to put calming instrumental music on. YouTube has many options that you can watch for free.

Step 2

Create a list with two columns. In one column you will write down the stressors in your life that you cannot control and in the other column you will write down the stressors, or situations surrounding the stressors that you can control. Take your time and make your list thorough. You do not have to show this list to anyone.

Step 3

Now that you have created these columns, on the back of the page or another blank page, write down a prayer to God. That prayer can be written in any format that you find comfortable.

This exercise accomplishes many things. First it helps to minimize the scope of the stressors in your life once you identify what you can or cannot control. It also most importantly reminds

God not only works in our lives through other people, God also works within our own hearts.

you that you are not alone in tackling these problems.

God is with you and God knows what is on your heart. Remain in a spirit of prayer with God and allow God's presence to help calm your spirit as you tackle the list of things you can control. God will take care of the column of things that you cannot control.

God not only works in our lives through other people, God also works within our own hearts. This practice allows us to lay our problems before God. God has brought you through every trial you have ever faced, why would he stop now?



Youth Corner

Youth & Children kick-off Sunday night event.



Happy
Birthday
Oliver

Children's Corner

Sunday School

Preschool/Kinder will continue hearing and watching stories of Jesus.

1st – 5th Grade are reading the Book of Acts.

Children's Church

Preschool/Kinder are learning about the Creation.

1st – 3rd Grade are hearing stories about Jesus.

Preschool/Kinder Choir

This Sunday, the 19th, will be the first practice for this choir. It will be at 10:30 in the classroom adjoining the nursery. This time is at the end of Sunday School.

Hopefully, these precious little ones will sing in worship on February 9th.

Sunday Afternoon

The children will meet on the 19th in the Kid Cave at 4:30. We will begin our service project for the "Young at Heart".



Poinsettias & Disciples Beans December 24, 2024

Thanks to your generosity a donation
will be made to
Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries
in the amount of \$900.00

In Memory Of:

Brown & Caudle Siblings by Jerry & Lyn Brown
Melinda Coffman by The Coffman Family
N.W. Absher by Mary Beth Corbett
Brad Smith by Mary Beth Corbett
Todd Wright by Mary Beth Corbett
Hayley Chapman by Mary Beth Corbett
C. W. "Red" & Mary Ellis
by the Ellis Children and Grandchildren
Lynne Davis by Pat Vincent & Joe Gassie
Paulette Ray by Pat Vincent & Joe Gassie
Tom & Kay Hill by Suzanne Gonzalez
Robert Ellis
by Suzanne Gonzalez, Cindy Elliott &
Vicki Gleason
Lloyd, Cleo and Kay Johns by Suzanne Gonzalez
O.H. & Dorthy Rupe
by Rev. Keith & Sharna Gibbons
R.H. and Shirley Hale
by Rev. Keith & Sharna Gibbons
James & Dorothy Harrison
by O.I. Cricket Harrison
Theresa Harrison Smith by O.I. Cricket Harrison
Vance Hendricks by Jacqueline Hendricks
Frank Singleton by Clint & Mary Hurst
Ronnie Wright by Jeannine & Roy Hurst
Doyle D Jones by Peggy Jones
Twana & Kenneth Evers by Lisa Kilborn
Our Parents by Butch & Sherry Ladd
Frieda & David Schnable
by Sandra & John Schnable

Ben M. Farr by Sandra & John Schnable
Shorty Williamson by Bob Williamson
Don Chambers by The Wrights
Mark Ellerbe by The Wrights

In Honor of:

Joy Singleton by Suzanne Gonzales
Clint & Mary Hurst by Joy Singleton
Joy Singleton 100th Birthday
by Clint & Mary Hurst
Zach, Shawna, Scarlett, Easton & Hunter Kilborn
by Lisa Kilborn
J.M. Moore by Mike & Kathy Landrum
Virgie Lewis by David & Terry Perry
Glenna Farr by Sandra & John Schnable

In Appreciation of:

FCC Staff by Rev. Keith & Sharna Gibbons
Jim & Brenda Morris
by Rev. Keith & Sharna Gibbons
Martha & Emily Fentem
by Rev. Keith & Sharna Gibbons
FCC Custodial Staff
by Rev. Keith & Sharna Gibbons
Peggy Jones by Mike & Kathy Landrum
Martha Fentem & Mary Lightfoot by Praise Team
Grace Hardin & Alton Harvey by Kris Evers
The Harvey Family by Kris Evers
The Hardin Family by Kris Evers
The Kilborn Family by Kris Evers
Hunter & Lisa Kilborn by Kris Evers
Martha Fentem by Sandra & John Schnable
Janice Ford & Julie Walton by Fred Yates
Mary Lightfoot & Martha Fentem & Choir
First Christian Church by Butch & Sherry Ladd

Given in Love by:

First Christian Church by Sandy Garcia
First Christian Church by Mike Stephenson

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
- 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

- 01/04 Mary Beth Corbett
- 01/06 Joy Singleton
- 01/06 LeeAnna Crudgington
- 01/10 Ray Berry
- 01/10 J.R. Bourland
- 01/12 **Rowen Hattenbach**
- 01/13 Virgie Lewis
- 01/14 Ed Hall
- 01/17 **Cora James**
- 01/20 Charla Espino
- 01/25 Donna Campbell
- 01/28 **Paul Junior Kosanke**
- 01/29 Blake Woods
- 01/31 Pat Howard
- 01/31 Margy House
- 01/31 Beth Crawford

Anniversaries

- 01/25 Justin & Lauren Disney

Youth and Children are in Red





1301 W. Louisiana Ave.

Midland, TX 79701

432.682.2541

www.fccmidland.org



The Story

my story

A Year Reading
through the Bible

Scan this QR
code to find the
suggested reading
plan for 2025!

