



The Builder

First Christian Church
Midland

February 16, 2025 Volume 70 Issue 4



First Christian Church
Midland
Our Church
my ministry:

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In His Steps
Recognizing 2024
Executive Chair
Recognizing New Elders
Recent & Upcoming Events

WEEK AT A GLANCE

SUN FEB 16	10AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 11AM WORSHIP 4:30PM CHILDREN'S EVENING PROGRAM
MON FEB 17	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED PRESIDENTS DAY
TUE FEB 18	6:30PM CUB SCOUTS 7PM SCOUTING AMERICA BOYS TROOP
WED FEB 19	7AM MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST 9AM FOOD PANTRY 5:30PM EXECUTIVE MEETING 7PM CHOIR
SUN FEB 23	10AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 11AM WORSHIP 4:30PM CHILDRENS EVENING PROGRAM

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Rev. David Chisham
Senior Minister

MY CHURCH, OUR MINISTRY

If you're paying attention I switched a couple of pronouns in the title of my article. Our In His Steps theme, properly, is "Our Church: My Ministry", but I'd like to get your thinking about the personal connection you feel to this congregation, and the shared aspect of the work we do together.

In the New Testament, Paul uses some surprising language as he addresses fellow Christians. Repeatedly, he calls them "brothers"—covering our bases what Paul means to say is "brothers and sisters". We're comfortable with that language because we've heard it used repeatedly, but I think in the first century the idea of a Jewish man addressing Gentile men and women as siblings would have been a radical departure from the norm. It would have been a struggle for Jews and Gentiles to call each other friends...but family relations?

For Paul the church was something other than an "organized religion"—it was a family network. And within that network of relationships, these connections weren't about gaining favors or protecting assets, but about the intimate association that took place between close family members. In the same way I think about my family, Paul thinks about his relationship to the church.

Within my family, each of us has a different role to play. I'm the dad and I do "dad-things"—Kori does "mom-things"—and Layne does "daughter-things". But together we have goals as a family

that we work on. We like to keep our house comfortable and clean and regularly work at that as a family. We like to travel together and go to events together and every once in a while, find a movie that all of us like to watch together. Holidays and meals are an important part of the work we share as a family.

As you consider what your ministry is within the church, hopefully you also see a bigger vision of how that ministry helps build up our shared work—our ministry. I see this every week in the Disciples Food Pantry. Mike sets up computers. Mary starts cleaning tables and arranging grocery products. Clyde gets there and helps Mary. Once prayer breakfast lets out Dave goes out to move pallets around. Lillian and Sharna set up the bread table. Peggy verifies the food order and Geri gets there early to let client in out of the cold. The truck arrives and volunteers start breaking down pallets of produce and dry goods. Young and old volunteers alike just know what to do. And then pantry service begins and everyone finds a place to serve; some do carts and clients, some do intake on the computer, some stock the tables, Fred hands out poker chips and some like me just stand there and smile in amazement; it's a "well-oiled-machine."

For Paul the church was something other than an "organized religion"—it was a family network.

The ministry of one is just a small piece of the puzzle, and no piece is more or less important—each part building up the ministry of feeding hungry neighbors.



I know not everything runs as smoothly in our church as it does in the Food Pantry—and the Food Pantry does have some days when they have to navigate challenges—but each contribution builds up a combined ministry and shared goal.

As we continue this journey through In His Steps, I hope you see how your ministry works upward into OUR MINISTRY!

See you at the Table,



Rev. Tom Jones
Associate Minister

Who are you? It's a question Moses asked when God appeared to him and called him to lead the Israelites out of slavery.

Moses said, "Who am I to do such a thing?" God reminds Moses and us who we are and whose we

are. We are God's children, loved beyond measure and gifted in many incredible ways.

In His Steps is a process where we are reminded who we are and the unique and special ways God has created us. We are created in God's image. Shouldn't we follow in his footsteps? In His Steps gives us a way to follow Christ by giving ourselves to a ministry that God leads us to.

Your ministry can be fulfilled in the church. I hope that you will prayerfully consider how God is leading you.

Who are you?




First Christian Church
Midland

FCC is Hiring!

We're searching for a Bookkeeper for our church office.

Contact Rev. Chisham for details or if you know anyone who'd like to submit a resume!



**Laying on of hands
of our new Elders.**

**FCC recognizes our outgoing
Executive Chair
Rebecca Bell.
Thank you for all you do!**



Our Deepest Sympathy

We extend our heartfelt sympathy and prayers to the following family who has recently lost a loved one.

The Crudgington family: Robert Crudgington passed away on February 9, 2024. Robert was the husband of Shelia Crudgington and the father of Isaiah, Autumn, Simon, Destiny and LeeAnna Crudgington.

Robert's Celebration of Life service will be this coming Saturday, February 15, 2025, at 3pm in the sanctuary of First Christian Church, Midland.

OUR CHURCH: MY MINISTRY

Welcome to our new “In His Steps” process! For a number of years, generally in October, our church went through a recruiting process we call “In His Steps”, encouraging everyone to be actively involved in ministry and personal discipleship in our church. And over the years, we saw some drop-off in response rates from the congregation. Some of this may have been the repetition, year-over-year. Some of this may have also had to do with the timing—enlisting volunteers for an event six or more months off feels like a stretch.

To that end, we’re revamping our process, breaking what had been an annual process into a seasonal process. At the beginning of each year we will produce a guide to the ministries of the congregation, and in this guide we will list as many service and discipleship opportunities as we are able to list. We know that over the year new inspirations will arise and smaller projects emerge, so while we want to be intentional in our planning, we also want to leave room for the Spirit to lead us. Additionally, breaking this down into small seasonal pushes, that gives everyone the opportunity, especially newer members and friends in the congregation, to be included in our congregational life.

Our theme this year is “Our Church: My Ministry”. Starting Sunday, February 9, we will begin rolling out materials related to this new process. There will be a guide booklet and a “MY MINISTRY” response form. We ask that you make an intentional effort to be a part of this effort.

First, we ask that you pray. Begin everything with prayer. Take an inventory of how God has been active in your life and in this past year. Are there things that have inspired you or moved you with compassion, or a feeling inside that you’ve kept at arms length?

Second, please read through the booklet carefully --don’t just look for what you always sign up for! See what’s new and remind yourself of what we’ve done season after season. Feel free to call a church pastor or staff or fellow church member to find out more about a particular ministry. Learn about what your faith community is doing so you can share that with others.

Consider your strengths. Your natural abilities can influence your choice of service. Your life experiences can also give you insight and empathy in helping others going through similar situations. Special knowledge such as medical training, technical skills, or construction expertise can open doors for unique aspects of ministry. Musical, artistic, or even athletic talents can, and should, be used to glorify God!

Ask a friend to join you. Serving with others can be a great way to get involved and enjoy fellowship. Invite others to join you in a class or project or fellowship meeting.

Finally, prayerfully indicate on the **MY MINISTRY** form how you wish to express your commitment to serve and connect with our church in 2025! You can use this QR code to submit your form online.

May God bless YOUR ministry and life of discipleship this year!



KIDS @ FCC

Sunday School

Preschool/Kinder will hear about Jesus' healing people.
1st – 5th Grade will continue the study on the Book of Acts.

Children's Church

Preschool/Kinder will hear the story of Abraham and Sarah.
1st – 3rd Grade will hear how four friends "Find a Way".

Sunday Afternoon

Kinder – 5th Grade will meet from 4:30 to 6:00 in Kid Cave.



Children singing on Sunday, February 9, 2016 in Worship.

Youth @ FCC

Youth have Super bowling party.





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

- 02/01 Bill Boyd
- 02/04 Rachel James
- 02/06 Chris Huff
- 02/08 **Lillian Dzuik**
- 02/10 Sandra Schnable
- 02/11 Netha Aaron
- 02/12 Sharon Boyd
- 02/12 David Chisham
- 02/13 Chaney Coffman
- 02/13 Katie Coffman
- 02/13 **Abraham Ortega**
- 02/17 Lyn Brown
- 02/18 Gaylon Howard Sr
- 02/19 Meaghan Villa
- 02/23 Ann Minter
- 02/23 **Patton Dishron**
- 02/25 Mollie Wright
- 02/25 **Daniel Ortega**
- 02/26 Garrett Stephenson
- 02/26 Autumn Crudgington
- 02/27 Jeweli Flores
- 02/28 Becky Armour
- 02/29 Beverly Drummond

Anniversaries

- 02/09 Jack & Troy Campbell
- 02/14 Vinson & Maria Cooper
- 02/20 Dan O’Grady & Anne Shaunesy

Names in **red** are youth and children



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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!

