



The Builder

First Christian Church
Midland

February 9, 2025 Volume 70 Issue 3



First Christian Church
Midland
Our Church
my ministry:

In this Issue:
Pastors' Articles
In His Steps
Recent & Upcoming Events

WEEK AT A GLANCE

SUN
FEB
9

10AM SUNDAY SCHOOL
11AM WORSHIP
5PM YOUTH BOWLING PARTY
AT BOWLERO

TUE
FEB
11

9:30AM CONCERNS COOKIE DELEVERY
6:30PM CUB SCOUTS
7PM SCOUTING AMERICA BOYS TROOP

WED
FEB
12

7AM MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST
9AM FOOD PANTRY
7PM CHOIR

THUR
FEB
13

11:30AM DISCIPLES WOMEN'S
BIBLE STUDY & LUNCHEON

SUN
FEB
16

10AM SUNDAY SCHOOL
11AM WORSHIP
4:30PM YOUTH & CHILDREN'S
EVENING PROGRAM

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Rev. David Chisham
Senior Minister

CLASH OF THE TITANS

Back in the 1980's there was a terrible movie that came out of Hollywood called "Clash of the Titans". Loosely based on

Greek myth, the movie has been panned by critics as "a goofy, old-school sword-and-sandal epic." The theme, though, mines an ancient storyline that, in a form, shows up in the book of Exodus: powerful gods doing battle against each other.

One of my earliest memories of learning about the stories in the Bible is learning about the Ten Plagues. A river of blood; an infestation of frogs; boils covering your body head to toe; all of these things capture a kid's imagination. But there does come a point when we start asking, does the Lord God really take that much delight in sending pestilence upon the Earth?

Digging a little deeper, there is another layer at work in these stories. In ancient Egypt, the Nile wasn't just a big river, it was also considered a powerful god. As the Hebrew people are encountering the Lord God for the first time, their first question is going to be, is this new god more powerful than the gods of Egypt? Thus, that first plague is a dagger through the heart of one of the most important gods of ancient Egypt—the Lord God is able to utterly disgrace any competition.

Reading through other plagues, it's clear that many of these plagues are connected to a particular Egyptian god. There was an Egyptian god with the head of a frog and another with the head of a fly. There was an Egyptian god who was protector of livestock, and when there's a massive die off of Egyptian cattle, it wouldn't have been

seen as an animal crisis as much as god crisis—that Egyptian god was powerless against the Lord God.

Which brings us to Pharaoh. In my Sunday school class we were talking about the verses that say that the Lord God hardened Pharaoh's heart, which in turn only made matters worse for the Egyptians. It seems unfair of the Lord God to do such a thing to a mere mortal.

But that's where we're underestimating the role of Pharaoh in Egypt. The King of Egypt wasn't a mere mortal, but was worshipped and revered as a god incarnate. Thus, when the Lord God strengthens Pharaoh's misguided resolve, the Lord isn't toying with a man, but is doing battle with what many people believe is the divine protector of Egypt.

In that final plague, the death of the firstborn among the Egyptians, this wouldn't have been experienced as family tragedies on the part of those who lost their firstborn sons and daughters, but would have been experienced as a failure on Pharaoh's part to protect his people. The Lord God has clearly triumphed over every divinity that the Egyptians trusted.

It's one task to free the Hebrews from Egyptian slave bondage, but it's a completely different task to free the Hebrews from their infatuation with Egypt.

Reading through Exodus, the Lord God (and Moses) have their work cut out for them. It's one task to free the Hebrews from Egyptian slave

bondage, but it's a completely different and taller task to free the Hebrews from their infatuation with Egypt. The plagues were a demonstration to the Hebrews that the Lord God was greater than any power in Egypt and recounting the mighty deeds of the Lord was an important way for the Hebrews to remind themselves of what God did for them; but in weak moments, the Hebrews were often ready to turn around and return to captivity. Culturally, Egypt had a strong gravitational pull that took at least 40 years to break.

For us, God has demonstrated through Jesus Christ that he has triumphed over sin and death, yet the fear and attraction of those things still has a strong gravitational pull in our lives. Let us be faithful in recounting the mighty things we have seen God do in our lives, and as the Apostle Paul says, "one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:13)

See you at the Table,



Rev. Tom Jones
Associate Minister

Our church, my ministry is a great way to affirm one's ministry within the context of church.

While my ordination authorizes me to serve the Christian church and in all aspects of ministry, I have been drawn and led to ministry with people who have disabilities and their families.

My own experience of having a disability gives me insights to the challenges. It is a natural fit. I think we are all shaped by our experiences in life and with God. God gives everyone gifts that we can use in ministry. Each gift is valuable and important to the church. How is God calling you? What is your gift, your ministry?



How is God calling you? What is your gift, your ministry?



CLC @ FCC

301 enjoying playground time.



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 complete some activity sheets about Jesus.

1st – 5th Graders will also complete some activity sheets about the acts of the apostles.

Children's Church

Preschool/Kinder will listen to the story of Abraham and Sarah.

1st – 3rd Graders will hear another story about the miracles of Jesus.

Sunday Afternoon

The Children WILL NOT meet on the 9th. It's Super Bowl time!

Youth @ FCC

Youth have
Valentine 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

Disciples Food Pantry is in need of 1 or 2 pound bags of rice and beans.





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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!

