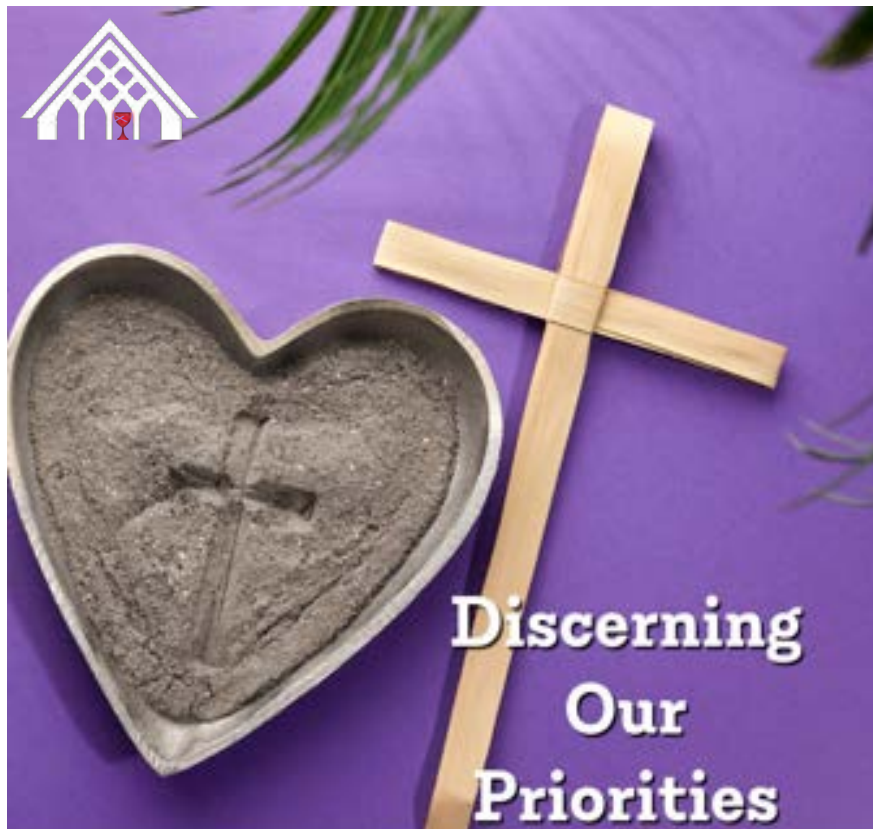




The Builder

First Christian Church *Midland*

March 9, 2025 Volume 70 Issue 7



In this Issue:

Pastors' Articles
Youth & Children
Recent & Upcoming Events

WEEK AT A GLANCE

SUN
MARCH
9 10AM SUNDAY SCHOOL
11AM WORSHIP

TUE
MARCH
11 9:30AM CONCERN COOKIE DELIVERY

WED
MARCH
12 7AM MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST
9AM FOOD PANTRY

SUN
MARCH
16 10AM SUNDAY SCHOOL
11AM WORSHIP

WED
MARCH
19 7AM MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST
9AM FOOD PANTRY
5:30PM EXECUTIVE MEETING
5:30PM HANDBELLS
7PM CHOIR

SUN
MARCH
23 10AM SUNDAY SCHOOL
11AM WORSHIP
4:30PM CHILDREN & YOUTH
EVENING PROGRAM

CONTACT INFORMATION:

432-682-2841

1301 W LOUISIANA AVE., MIDLAND, TX 79701

FOCMIDLAND.ORG

OFFICE@FOCMIDLAND.ORG





Rev. David Chisham
Senior Minister

IN THE LAND OF THE LOST

Back in the 70's there was a really bad TV show called the Land of the Lost. I don't

remember who acted in it, or

any plot lines other than it was about a family who dropped through a hole in time and ended up in an alternate universe of dinosaurs and dangerous, hissing reptilian humanoids. If any of this raises your curiosity to go to Youtube and find some old episodes, don't bother; I was addicted to TV as a kid, but I don't think that show ever held my attention for more than a few minutes.

"Suppose someone invented a convenient little talking tube which could be heard over the whole land. I wonder if the police would not forbid it, fearing that the whole country would become mentally deranged."

But the concept behind the show does ring true in certain respects--how many times have we awakened in a world that seems completely foreign, full of dangers that we can scarcely conceptualize. As our world comes to terms with the ramifications of using Artificial Intelligence, my mind still boggles at all of the hidden dangers that could arise and already have arisen. How do we navigate these troubled waters?

While I don't have an authoritative answer on how to integrate the benefits of Artificial Intelligence into our culture without suffering any drawbacks, I do know that for centuries Christians have had to navigate the troubled waters of changing culture and changing technologies.

Almost 100 years before the invention of television, Soren Kierkegaard, a Danish Christian philosopher, pondered about what would happen if such a device was invented. He said, "Suppose someone invented a convenient little talking tube which could be heard over the whole land. I wonder if the police would not forbid it, fearing that the whole country would become mentally deranged."

100 years after the invention of TV what can we say? TV has been a tremendous blessing, but also the source of any number of "mental derangements" too...(and personally I would add The Land of the Lost among the many, though certainly less dangerous, derangements).

The changes will come, but we are not without instruction. In Ephesians 4, Paul instructs the church,

¹⁴ We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming; ¹⁵ but speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

As we navigate the complex times we live in, let us remind ourselves to speak truth, but always in love. And as we continue to grow in Christ, may we be joined together, rather than torn apart, by the love that binds us into Christ's body.

As Lent begins, and we reflect on encouraging greater faithfulness in our lives, may these words build us together.

See you at the Table,



Rev. Tom Jones
Associate Minister

We live in hectic and confusing times. There are so many voices and opinions vying for our attention that it can be hard to hear God's voice.

Looking to God and hearing God's voice, especially in our deserted places is key.

How does one know what to do or how to act in any given situation? It is tempting to react to situations in a negative way, but that is rarely helpful. It is helpful to remember who we are and who God is at all times.

In Sunday School, we read Psalm 63, written by David when he was in the desert. He looked to God in the desert. Looking to God and hearing God's voice, especially in our deserted places is key.

We remember that God is Love and that he has created us in his image. How do you reflect God in your life?



Welcome

Welcome our new Bookkeeper

Emily Cates

Emily, is joining our FCC staff come by the church office and meet Emily!

ecates@fccmidland.org



Rev. Remy Tercero
Associate Minister

**“WHAT DOES DISCERNMENT
LOOK LIKE IN YOUR LIFE?”**

Discernment is difficult. It is difficult both for the most

devoted Christian you know, and someone who is new to Christianity. Along the entire spectrum, most Christians would agree that discerning God’s call and direction in our lives is a hard thing to do.

Would this direction make God proud of me? Does this direction I feel God is calling me in lead with a spirit of love? If the answer is no to either of those questions, then maybe rather than discerning what God could be saying, we are telling God what we feel is important. God does not care. God calls us to love others and build God’s Kingdom here on earth through our actions.

It is particular difficult to assess when God could be directing us in a direction, or whether we are simply telling ourselves what we want to hear. Those who find discernment simple conveniently worship a God that agrees with everything they believe.

It is easy to fall into the trap of believing that God’s voice matches our beliefs, but in reality

that couldn’t be further from the truth. God is ready and willing to push us into a direction we could never expect. God did that exact thing in the Bible many times, for example the conversion of Saul to Paul, calling Moses to free the Israelites although Moses himself told God that he wasn’t ready.

When we pray I would encourage us to try and do more listening than speaking. I use the word try because that is a difficult thing to do. When we listen for God’s guidance it is important to allow God to take our mind in the direction he may be pushing us.

When we pray and our mind wanders a bit, naturally we are going to begin thinking about the situation in the way that God would view the situation. We view the situation in that moment with the pretense of our faith leading the way. For example, we may be struggling with a particular relationship in our life. We take the time to pray for that relationship and while doing so, God moves our heart in a way that is difficult to explain. In that moment we are thinking of that situation through the eyes of God.

God frames that situation through the lens of a loving Christian God aspires us to be. Because we first took the time to reflect rather than acting out of emotion. Then after some time to cool down, we pray, and God guides.

If you are wondering if it is God guiding your heart during a prayer I would ask yourself these questions.

The direction I feel God is calling me to take in this situation, does that direction line up with God’s teachings as a whole. I don’t mean asking yourself if there is a singular bible verse to back up your opinion. Rather ask yourself, does your perspective look at the situation in the same way that Jesus would.

Would this direction make God proud of me?
Does this direction I feel God is calling me in lead
with a spirit of love? If the answer is no to either
of those questions, then maybe rather than
discerning what God could be saying, we are
telling God what we feel is important. God does
not care. God calls us to love others and build
God's Kingdom here on earth through our
actions.

Building that Kingdom is growing in our faith.
Building that Kingdom is bringing others to build
a relationship with God like we have. Building
that Kingdom is helping those in need. Building
that Kingdom happens when we put our own
ambitions aside, so we can follow God with all our
heart, soul and might.

Remy

Youth @ FCC

The youth and families from
our church enjoyed a fun
outreach opportunity at
Disciples Village in Odessa
last Friday night! The
community room was full of
residents from both buildings
that joined us for a meal and
BINGO.



Youth SHOUT OUT

Congratulations to Hector
"Elias" Hernandez on a
successful first soccer game
of the season!



Youth Sunay night group





KIDS @ FCC

Sunday School

Preschool/Kinder will watch a DVD about Jesus.

1st – 5th Graders will play some Bible games.

Children's Church

Preschool/Kinder will listen to some more stories about Jacob.

1st – 3rd Graders will hear about some events in the last week of Jesus' life.

THERE IS NO SUNDAY AFTERNOON PROGRAM ON THE 9th or 16TH.

ASHES

First Christian Kids, Sunday evening burned the ashes from last years palms from Palm Sunday for our Ash Wednesday service.

They did such a great job, way to go FCC Kids!



Elder Emeritus

This past Sunday, March 2, 2025 during worship Mark Cranford and Fred Schwiening were recognized with Elder Emeritus.

When you see Mark or Fred Congratulate them!

**Prayer List**

Those in need of prayer:

Jim Mauldin
 Hunter Family
 Abraham Ortega
 Virgie Lewis
 Tere Valero
 Kaylene 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
 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

03/03 Jim Morris
 03/03 Destiny Crudgington
 03/03 **Morgan Pierce-Dishron**
 03/05 Mary Lightfoot
 03/12 Clyde Kinsey
 03/15 Bill Terry
 03/16 John Schnable
 03/19 Michael Landrum
 03/22 **Brecken Hattenbach**
 03/23 Fred Yates
 03/23 Spencer Armour
 03/23 David Davis
 03/24 Mike Stephenson
 03/25 Sharna Gibbons
 03/28 **Aimsley Lastoka**
 03/30 Joe Gassie
 03/31 Gary Thompson

Anniversaries

03/04 Roy & Jeannine Hurst
 03/12 Charlie & LuAnn Morgan
 03/17 Beau & Barbara Estes
 03/17 Joe Gassie & Pat Vincent

Names in **red** are youth and children

Our Deepest Sympathy

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

The Lewis/Perry family: Virgie Lewis passed away on Sunday, March 2, 2025.

Virgie Lewis is the mother of Terry Perry.



1301 W. Louisiana Ave.

Midland, TX 79701

432.682.2541

www.fccmidland.org



Palm Sunday
April 13th

Maundy Thursday 7pm
April 17th

Good Friday
April 18th

Easter Eggstravaganza
April 19th

Easter Worship
April 20th
7 am Sunrise Service
11 am Worship Service