



The Builder

First Christian Church
Midland

April 13, 2025 Volume 70 Issue 13

He Is Risen



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WEEK AT A GLANCE

SUN
APRIL
20

EASTER
6:40AM SUNRISE SERVICE
FRONT LAWN
10AM SUNDAY SCHOOL
11AM WORSHIP

TUE
APRIL
22

6:30PM CUBSCOUTS
6:30PM SCOUTING AMERICA
BOYS TROOP

WED
APRIL
23

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

SAT
APRIL
26

APRIL 26-MAY 3RD
8AM CIA HOUSE
1901 W. LOUISIANA (CORNER OF
LOUISIANA & L ST.)

SUN
APRIL
27

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

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Rev. David Chisham
Senior Minister

I BELIEVE IN THE RESURRECTION

“Resurrection” is a word written into our Christian language, but I often find that

it’s a word that we haven’t unpacked well in our theology and everyday Christian practice.

We believe on Easter Sunday that Jesus rose from the dead. He who was dead is now alive, just as he foretold. Although Jesus told his disciples several times that the Son of Man would be handed over to the authorities, suffer and die, and then be resurrected, they had trouble understanding what he meant.

We see this in the Gospel of John when Martha, the sister of Lazarus, spoke with Jesus. Jesus said that Lazarus will live again. Martha replied, “I believe that he will rise again one day in the resurrection.” Martha, along with most Jews of the First Century, believed that one day, far off in time, God would raise all the Jewish people to life again. But Jesus replied, “I AM the resurrection.” Jesus is trying to help Martha understand that that one-day-far-off-resurrection was already at work in the world here and now. And, of course, Jesus goes on to call Lazarus back to life, demonstrating his power over death.

On Easter Sunday, we’ll hear the Good News that, “He is risen!”, “He’s not here”, and “The tomb is empty”! We’ll hear how Jesus spent the next 40 days telling his disciples about what his resurrection meant, and that they are to go forth into the world and turn this world upside down with this news. But often, when I speak with others about what their hopes are as a Christian,

they will say, “I’m just looking forward to leaving this world and being with Jesus in heaven after I die.”

Certainly, I believe that heaven is real, and that we are gathered with Jesus in heaven after death. But if we limit ourselves to that hope, we overlook the living hope we have because of Jesus’ resurrection.

In the book of Ephesians chapter one, Paul reminds us that the same power that raised Christ from the dead is *already* at work in us (1:20). We who have been baptized in the likeness of Christ’s death are raised in the power of his resurrection. We who believe in Jesus already have the power of the resurrection at work in our lives, transforming us from the “old” person into a “new creation”! Through faith, we’re already tasting the fruits of the resurrection.

This reframes how we think about our lives, our families and our world. A note was recently passed to me that said, “There is not one shred of scientific evidence that life is serious.” This quotation is attributed to someone who was an art and drama critic for the New Yorker. From a purely scientific point of view, we could grant that if I’m only looking at myself and my own experience, measured by my own limitations and my inevitable, mortal end (hopefully many years off), then I suppose all there is to do is enjoy what time I have doing whatever I want. Eat, drink and be merry.

Jesus is trying to help Martha understand that that one-day-far-off-resurrection was already at work in the world here and now.

But viewed in the light of Christ's resurrection, my faith tells me that my eyes are unable reveal the whole story. My faith tells me that because God has unleashed resurrection power in the world through Jesus, God is doing something new and wonderful in our world, and I want to be part of it. My faith tells me that I am empowered to shape my life with the awareness that God's reign and God's new creation is breaking into my world, even now! My faith tells me that I want to share God's compassion and mercy with others and spread the good news that this life is a foretaste of what God has in store for us!

This is why we worship. This is why we serve others and share generously. This is why we love unconditionally. This is why we live with a sense of ethics and morality. This is why we teach our children. This is why our relationships with others matter. Because of the resurrection of Jesus we're already crossing the boundary of eternal life!

As we prepare for the joy of Easter morning, remember that the resurrection of Jesus isn't just good news for him, it's a foretaste of what God has in store for all things!

He is risen! He is risen indeed!

See you at the Table,



Rev. Tom Jones
Associate Minister

The scenes of the passion of Christ produce vivid images of his scourging, mocking, suffering, and death on a cross.

We see our Lord who is rejected and despised by the world he created. In his death we see how powerless God appears. It reminds us of how

powerless we sometimes feel when confronting death and when our challenges overcome us.

The resurrection of Jesus reminds that the powers of death are conquered. Nothing can separate us from the love of God. In the resurrection, we can believe and know that death is not the end. Rather our ending is with God. He is the beginning and the end.

The hope of the resurrection is that God is with us, forever. Amen.

He is the beginning and the end.





Kids @ FCC

Sunday School

Preschool/Kinder will hear the story of "The Lost Sheep".

1st – 5th Graders will read about "Paul's Third Mission Trip".

Children's Church

Preschool/Kinder will hear the Easter Story from the Beginner's Bible.

1st – 3rd Grade will read "The Easter Story".

SUNDAY AFTERNOON PROGRAM WILL NOT MEET ON EASTER.

Sunday Afternoon

On April 27th, from 4:30 – 6:00, the children will go to the Christmas in Action house at 1901 West Louisiana and "L" Street to paint siding.

ALL CHILDREN SHOULD WEAR WORK CLOTHES AND MUST WEAR TENNIS SHOES.

Parent
Connection
Dinner
April 10th
Inclusion
CLC , FCC &
FCC Staff



Palm Sunday



Passover Meal Making Matzah



CHRISTMAS-IN-ACTION 2025

When: Saturday 26, April 8am Through Saturday 3 May

Where: 1901 W. Louisiana (corner of Louisiana & L St.)

As we approach the end of April, it is time to remember First Christian Church ministry of helping those less fortunate than ourselves repair their homes. This year we will be restoring the home of Mr. Inez Espinosa. Mr. Espinosa has several health issues. We will enhance the structure, insulation and livability of his home by replacing 12 windows, replace the siding with all new Hardiplank concrete siding. At least one outside door will be replaced. There will be much carpentry, painting and caulking!

Keep in mind that this is a project for those of all ages and experience levels. So look for your old clothes and work gloves. It is not necessary to bring any tools as everything will be provided. Though if you have a favorite hammer or paint brush feel free to bring it. We can guarantee that you will have a good time (maybe sweat a little!), laugh a lot, and most importantly remember with pride how you were able to help someone have a better place to live. So please come!

Amanda Bourland (cell 432-559-6874 and email: anjrb@aol.com) will be coordinating the food arrangements. If you would like to contribute some of the 'fixins' to include chips, salads, desserts, and drinks that would be great. Just contact Amanda or Brenda Morris. This year the Saturday lunch will be in the Guy Jamieson fellowship gym.

Lots of water and Gatorade will be consumed during the 10 day event. Donation of cases of these liquids will be welcome throughout the project. Either contact Amanda or Brenda or just drop off at the project.

Friday afternoon (25 April) at 2pm, materials will be loaded onto trailers at the CIA warehouse, 500 S. Lee St. If you can help then, come by. Work will commence on Saturday 26 April at 8am and will continue thru the week and hopefully (?) conclude on Saturday 3 May. So if you are unable to participate on one of the weekends, perhaps you can help on another.

If you have any questions, please contact Jim Morris (cell: 413-1051) or Dave Cromwell (528-2245). We sincerely appreciate this support and look forward to this camaraderie. And remember donuts will be provided!

P.S. Remember each one of us can contribute a little to greatly improve someone's home who is not physically or financially able.



**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:

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

04/03 Mike Harrison
 04/05 Adam Bourland
 04/06 Branson Iness
 04/08 Danielle Dunlap
 04/09 Brenda Harrison
 04/12 Rebecca Bell
 04/12 Roy Bermea
 04/14 Jackie Hendricks
 04/16 Bill Griffin
 04/18 Jack Campbell

04/19 Jessica Southern
 04/19 Ambrey Stone
 04/20 Lisa Kilborn
 04/22 Emily Fentem
 04/25 Christian Flores
 04/25 Olivia Parks
 04/26 Kelly Cook
 04/28 Pat Vincent

Anniversaries

4/06 Ernie & Victoria Gilkerson

Names in red are youth and children

Youth @ FCC



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A poster for Easter Worship. It features a wooden cross with a purple cloth draped over it. The background is a close-up of green leaves with water droplets. The text "Easter Worship" and "April 20th" is written in a large, white, serif font with a black outline. Below this, the service times "6:40 am Sunrise Service" and "11 am Worship Service" are listed in a smaller, white, serif font with a black outline. In the bottom left corner, there is a small logo of a church building with a red cross on the roof.

Easter Worship

April 20th

6:40 am Sunrise Service

11 am Worship Service