



# The Builder

First Christian Church  
*Midland*

July 6, 2025 Volume 70 Issue 24



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No Newsletter Next Week

### WEEK AT A GLANCE

SUN  
JULY  
6

10AM SUNDAY SCHOOL  
11AM WORSHIP

TUE  
JULY  
8

7:30PM SCOUTING AMERICA  
BOYS TROOP

WED  
JULY  
9

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

SUN  
JULY  
13

10AM SUNDAY SCHOOL  
11AM WORSHIP

#### CONTACT INFORMATION:

432-682-2541

1301 W LOUISIANA AVE., MIDLAND, TX 79701

FCCMIDLAND.ORG

OFFICE1@FCCMIDLAND.ORG





Rev. David Chisham  
Senior Minister

### SIC SEMPER TYRANNUS

When I lived in the state of Virginia, I remember often seeing the state flag with the motto “Sic Semper Tyrannus”,

and remarking how living in that state, one of the original colonies, connected me to birth of the American revolutionary movement. At the Virginia Convention in 1776, George Mason, a well-known Virginian, proposed that phrase, which in English means “thus always to tyrants,” be included in the state’s seal. If you’re not familiar, the state flag of Virginia includes a personification of “lady liberty” with her foot on the chest of a tyrant who has been felled, and his crown is lying on the ground beside him.

As we celebrate the birthday of the United States, we often recall how this nation was born out of a fundamental desire to throw off the tyranny of the English crown and live in a place where the rights of every person were respected, and everyone’s voice could be heard.

In many ways this was a revolutionary idea, not simply that it helped spark the American Revolution, but it led to a great expansion of democratic ideals that had not been seen applied on a large scale since ancient times. As I understand it, England had enacted some democratic reforms with the Magna Carta, the English Bill of Rights and the Glorious Revolution, but certainly many colonists in the Americas still felt left out in the cold. The idea that ALL people were endowed with rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness was revolutionary, even if it took this nation a while to realize who was included in ALL people.

But the desire for freedom is an old one too. Turning to the writings of the Apostle Paul, he has much to say about freedom, but his freedom wasn’t defined by whom he paid his taxes to or how his vote was counted. Indeed, much of what the Roman Empire offered to Paul and the early Christians is still seen as entirely tyrannical today. Certainly, the kangaroo court that tried and executed Jesus was a demonstration of unjust governance. And even as Christians continued to be persecuted and executed for their Christian faith, neither Paul nor any other Christian leader was heard to call for an overthrow of the Empire, because for them, their freedom sprang from a deeper source.

In my lifetime I’ve encountered countless people who live in this free country, but who are still ruled by tyrants. Those tyrants are many: addiction, anger, hatred, mistrust, fear, loneliness; the list is much longer than what I can write in this article. As valuable as the Bill of Rights is for us, unfortunately none of those rights can free us from the tyranny that rises from within.

For Paul, this is the work of liberation that Christ did for us. In Christ we are freed from bondage to a Law that we are unable to keep perfectly. In Christ we are free from the powers of evil that would control us. In Christ we are given a Spirit to help us overcome temptation to selfish and sinful ways. In Christ we are freed from the curse of death.

**I’ve encountered countless people who live in this free country, but who are still ruled by tyrants**

As Americans, we often remind ourselves that freedom is not free. There was a high cost that was paid so that we can live in a country where we are free to live, worship and believe according to our own conscience. Paul would say that same of the freedom that we find in Christ which obligates us to important relationships in the bonds of love. As he says in the book of Galatians 5:13,14: "For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters, only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become enslaved to one another. For the

whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

As we celebrate the birthday of our nation, let us also celebrate the freedom we have in Christ which truly sets us free!

See you at the Table,



Rev. Tom Jones  
Associate Minister

We celebrate freedom on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Freedom isn't free. There is a cost to our freedom. One can think of the men and women who fought and

sacrificed their lives for our freedom. God created us as people with free will- free to act and make choices as we like. With freedom comes

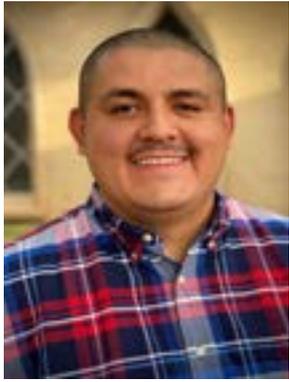
responsibility. When God created man and woman, he gave them the responsibility to care for his creation. Jesus gave his disciples the Great Commission- "Go make disciples..." The responsibility that comes with freedom is to love God and our neighbor. It is a choice that we make to turn to God, give him thanks, and serve him freely.

So as we celebrate our freedom this week, may we turn to God, give thanks, and love and serve our neighbor



**There is a cost to our freedom.**





Rev. Remy Tercero  
Associate Minister

### Freedom

When I speak with people and from what I hear on social media, living a Christian life is often tied to

living a limited life. What I mean by that is that Christians are typically viewed as people who do not live our lives to the fullest.

They ask questions like how can you be a part of a religion that expects you to be so perfect all of the time.

From the outside looking in they truly have it all wrong, but how could they know any better without ever having learned about the core staples of Christianity.

Aligning ourselves with God's teachings helps us to live more fulfilling lives.

Freedom in Christ is not living a limited life. Freedom in our relationship with God frees us from feeling that we have to adhere to the

societal norms that fill our lives. We are free from the expectations set on us from birth.

Everyone has a guide, or moral compass. Every person on earth has someone, or something they look up to. For many people, that is a celebrity, or a sport, or figures they find through social media. Everyone looks up to someone.

Our moral compass should be centered around God, God's teachings and values. God should be our moral compass.

**Aligning ourselves with God's teachings helps us to live more fulfilling lives.**

What steps can we take to remind ourselves of God's values?

How can I take a step this week to align myself with those values?



## Kids@FCC

### Sunday School

Preschool/Kinder will listen to "The Parable of the Builder".

1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Graders will hear more about the letters of the New Testament.

### Children's Church

Preschool/Kinder will hear the story of Deborah.

1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> will listen to the story of "Peter and The Beggar".

### Upcoming Events

July 15<sup>th</sup> – Movie Night with FCC Cub Scout Pack

August 15<sup>th</sup> – Splash Back to School with Cub Scout Pack

August 24<sup>th</sup> – Baby Shower for Ryleigh Kosanke

(More info to come.)

# CLC@FCC

# Summer Fun!!!





# Celebrating Martha Fentem's Retirement!



**Prayer List**

Those in need of prayer:

- Sherry Ladd
- Betty Couch
- Cinnamon Stanford
- Abraham Ortega
- 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
- Fred Schwiening
- Lana Cooley
- C.C. Petteway
- Pat Chambers
- Kathy Landrum
- Sheila Crudgington
- Gary Thompson

**Military:**

Tyler Brown—  
*grandson of Lyn Brown*

**Families, Friends Beyond**

**FCC**

- Fonda Bowlin—mother in law to Lee'Ayn Lesley
- 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*

Fred Copeland—  
*father of Lauren Disney*

Ed Keah  
*friend of Joy Singleton*

J.M. Moore –  
*father of Kathy Landrum*

Oscar Garcia –  
*brother of Amparo Olguin*

**Birthdays**

Names in red are youth and children

- 06/05 Danny Estrada
- 06/06 Charley Wilkinson
- 06/07 Charlie Morgan
- 06/08 Maria Cooper
- 06/10 Lea Ann Schneider
- 06/13 Barbara Holeva
- 06/13 Bryce Kosanke
- 06/15 Stephanie Hall
- 06/16 Diane Faulkner
- 06/19 Tara Jones
- 06/20 Traci Hopper
- 06/22 Simon Crudgington
- 06/25 Roy Hurst
- 06/27 Lu Ann Morgan

**Anniversaries**

- 06/11 Dave & Kaylene Burgard
- 06/18 John & Sandra Schnable
- 06/28 Sandy & Diane Faulkner
- 06/28 Doug & Sandra Wills



**Our Deepest Sympathy**

We extend our heartfelt sympathy and prayers to the Trimble and Christmas in Action Families:

Bobby J. Trimble, passed away June 28, 2025. Bobby was the founder of Christmas in Action. The family will receive guests from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Friday, July 11, 2025 at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home. Celebration of life service will be held at 2:00 p.m., Saturday, July 12, 2025 at Alamo Heights Baptist Church.





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[www.fccmidland.org](http://www.fccmidland.org)

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