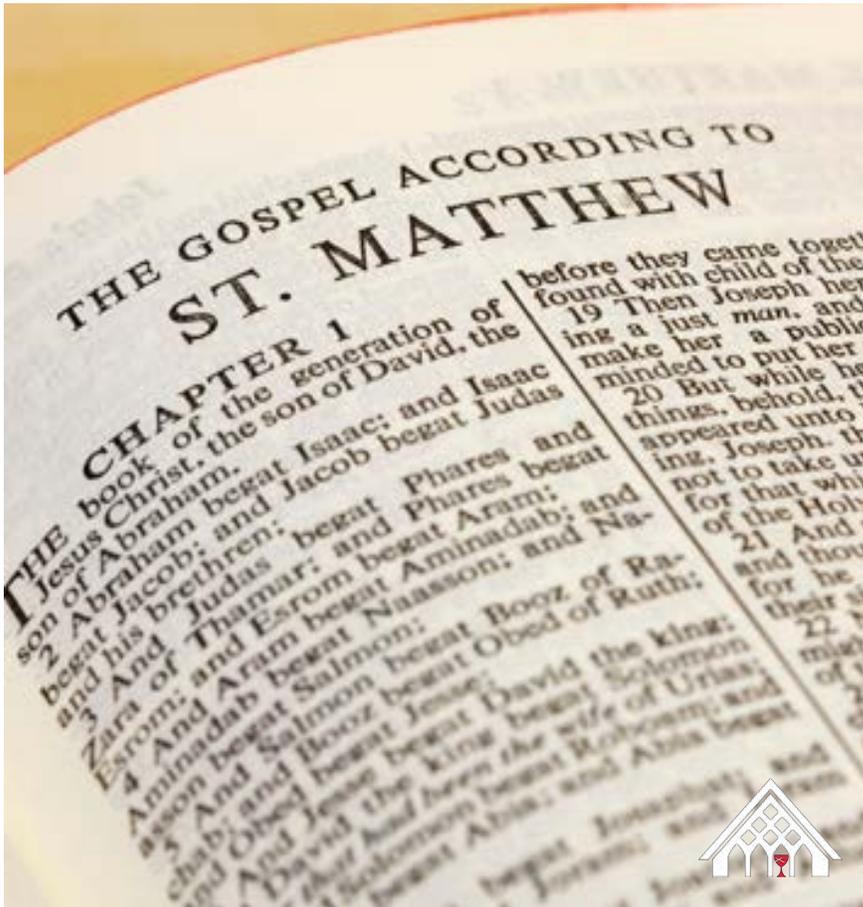




The Builder

First Christian Church
Midland

August 10, 2025 Volume 70 Issue 25



WEEK AT A GLANCE

SUN
AUG
10

10AM SUNDAY SCHOOL
11AM WORSHIP

TUE
AUG
12

9:30AM CONCERNS COOKIE
DELIVERY
7:30PM SCOUTING AMERICA
BOYS TROOP

WED
AUG
13

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

SUN
AUG
17

10AM SUNDAY SCHOOL
11AM WORSHIP
BLESSING STUDENT, TEACHER,
STAFF, & PROMOTION SUNDAY

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Pastors' Articles
Children & Youth Programs
Recent & Upcoming Events

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Rev. David Chisham
Senior Minister

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

The Gospel of Matthew has always been the most

difficult of all four Gospels for me to wade through. The Gospel of John's emphasis on love, the stories of Jesus' encounters with people in need, and the chapters recording Jesus' last conversation with his disciples before the crucifixion are all relatable, even if Jesus is a little difficult to understand sometimes. Mark is active, to the point, and for the most part brief. And Luke is a great storyteller, full of compassion.

Matthew, in comparison, sets the bar high for expectations, especially with his interest in how Jesus renews and resets our understanding of the laws of the Old Testament.

**It's very possible to be
"right on paper",
but "wrong in reality".**

If you've never waded through the Sermon on the Mount, by all means make this a priority--it's found in Matthew chapters 5-7. Even if you disagree with some, or all of it, as a coherent piece of writing it is a marvel. Throughout the sermon Jesus, the new Moses, takes instructions found in the Old Testament and updates their meaning with what appears to be a new and heightened level of meaning.

Famously, Jesus takes the commandment against adultery in marriage and heightens it's meaning-- Jesus says that lustful and leering looks at

someone else constitute adultery. As a teenager I was filled with dread at reading this and realizing if I were to keep this perfectly, I would have to gouge my eyes out (which Jesus suggests in Matthew 18)! In the old dichotomy of law vs. grace, Matthew certainly seems to come down on the "law side", making it seem even more impossible to earn God's favor (if we have to do it by our own efforts).

As I've matured, and as I've spent much more time reading the scriptures, my approach to the book of Matthew has evolved. Growing up I often heard that the Old Testament isn't of use to us any longer because we now have the New Testament. And I think that was part of my objection to Matthew is that he comes across as being a bit persnickety about keeping the commandments. I think Matthew would object to both of these notions; on the one hand not saying that we have to be faultless, and on the other hand we should still remain in a living conversation with the Old Testament's guidance. Jesus' heightening of Old Testament commandments isn't just about making things more difficult for us, but about helping us hear what was going on in God's heart when God gave those instructions to His people. In Matthew, I think Jesus' concern is that people could keep the letter of the law rightly, but miss the opportunity to develop right relationships.

In chapter 22 of Matthew, experts in the Law of Moses come to Jesus, trying to trap him. They ask Jesus, "Which of the commandments is most important?" Jesus' response is "love the Lord your God with all that you are and love your neighbor as yourself." Jesus then says that these two commands are the "pegs" or the "hinges" of the law, and everything else hangs on those two instructions. Like a door has two hinges that connects it to the wall and makes the door useful,

so all the instructions found in the Law of Moses hangs on those two and makes those instructions useful.

Certainly, Matthew emphasizes the importance of morality and good character in our lives, but that morality and character must serve the development of love for God and love for our neighbor. If our high moral standards and good character only serve to make us look holier than others, we miss the beating heart of God's instruction. In the end, Jesus isn't trying to do away with the Law as much as he is trying to help of fulfill the law (see Matthew 5:17-20).

What this means for me is that I've let go of trying to keep a checklist of do's and don'ts and put the focus on how I can develop a loving relationship with God and others. To me that focus means I need to be a person of morality and character because being immoral and unjust towards others does not build loving relationships and certainly isn't how I see God acting toward me. It's very possible to be "right on paper", but "wrong in reality". The Gospel of Matthew helps me see that contrast clearly.



Rev. Tom Jones
Associate Minister

The gospel of Matthew is my favorite gospel because it is written so eloquently. It's the first book of the Bible I read and remains my go-to gospel.

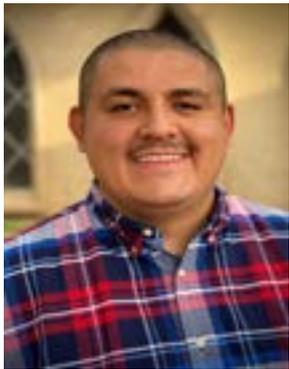
The first sermon I preached was from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount about worry and anxieties.

The parables are great. From a disability standpoint, there is one scripture that gave me an AHA moment. We read the story of Jesus overturning tables and driving people out because it was a "den of thieves" residing in a house of prayer.

**After he drove people out,
the disabled people entered
the temple that they had
been excluded from.
Jesus healed them.**

After he drove people out, the disabled people entered the temple that they had been excluded from. Jesus healed them. This is a great story about inclusion and how important it is to churches.





Rev. Remy Tercero
Associate Minister

THE BOOK OF MATTHEW

Hearers and Doers

24 “Everyone, then, who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like

a wise man who built his house on rock. **25** The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall because it had been founded on rock. **26** And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. **27** The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!”

28 Now when Jesus had finished saying these words, the crowds were astounded at his teaching, **29** for he taught them as one having authority and not as their scribes. -Matthew 7:24-29

Jesus closes out one of the most famous sermons of all time, the Sermon on the Mount, with the passage above.

After delivering a truly life changing message Jesus simply leaves the crowd with the question of, will they not only listen to his words but act on them, or will they listen and continue in their own destructive ways.

Are we taking this book for granted or assuming that we have already absorbed all that the book could teach us?

The Sermon on the Mount is one of the most powerful scripture passages in my opinion. In this passage you hear Jesus’ priorities straight from his mouth.

I challenge you this week to re read the Sermon on the Mount and truly ask yourself if you are living Jesus’ words or simply hearing the words. Our relationship with God is something to be experienced, rather than a simple list of rules to follow with the hopes you will make the cut to enter heaven when it is all said and done.

We are the foolish man in this passage when we don’t refresh ourselves on the words of Jesus, and ask ourselves how these words, although written so long ago, are applicable to our lives today.

The Bible is a significant resource that can refresh and refocus our eyes on God and God’s teachings. Are we taking this book for granted or assuming that we have already absorbed all that the book could teach us?

Moving forward into this week may we not only seek out God’s teachings but seek out opportunities to live into these teachings.

I have seen the foolish men in my life, whose life crumbles when the floods come. I have also seen strong, faithful Christians whose foundation and identity is firmly set in God’s teachings do just fine through the storm. I am sure we all know of examples of both types. Which category would you fall under? If the answer is not what makes you happy that is okay, begin taking baby steps towards improving that situation today. God is with you and self reflection is the first step towards moving closer to God who God wants you to be not who you want to be.





FCC@KIDS

Sunday School

Preschool/Kinder will hear the story of “Raising Lazarus”.

1st – 5th Graders will continue learning about the books of the New Testament.

Children’s Church

Preschool/Kinder will listen to stories about “Samuel”.

1st – 3rd Graders will hear about “Peter’s Escape”.

Special Events

The FCC Scout Pack 67 has invited the children, 1st – 5th grade, to “Splash Back to School”

Friday, August 15th

6:00 – 8:00

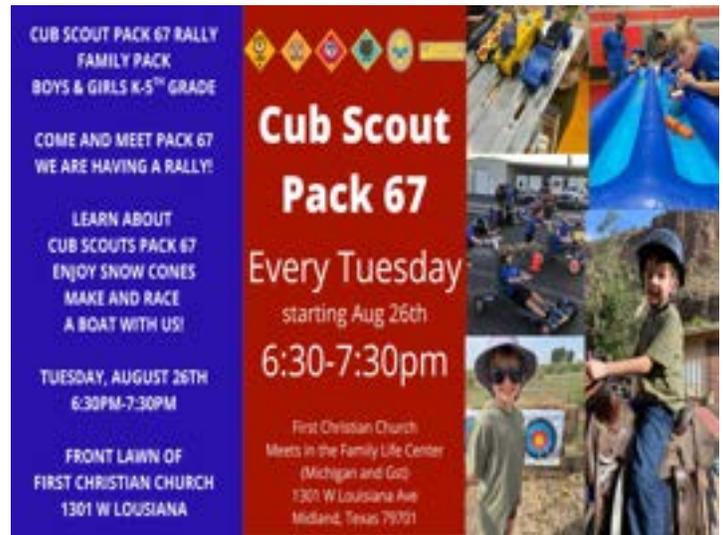
FCC Front Lawn

There will be a bouncy water slide and some other water games.

Be sure to bring a towel and be ready to splash!

August 17th at 11:00 service

“Blessing of the Students” and “Promotion Sunday”



YOUTH@FCC Summer Fun!!

Our youth group had an awesome trip to Balmorhea State Park last Saturday (8/2)! This was our fourth annual trip since I started working with the youth. In all, we had 28 people (youth & adults) that went from our church!

On the way home, we stopped for ice cream and had a celebration for our recent seniors and incoming 6th graders.

There are many more great things coming up in the fall that our youth will enjoy, so keep an eye out for the calendar. It will be discussed during our parent meeting on August 17th right after church. Thank you for your continued support!

Carpe diem and God bless,
Lauren Disney





Prayer List

Those in need of prayer:

- Bruce Stanley
- Chris Huff
- Sherry Ladd
- Betty Couch
- Cinnimon 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 Crudginton
- 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

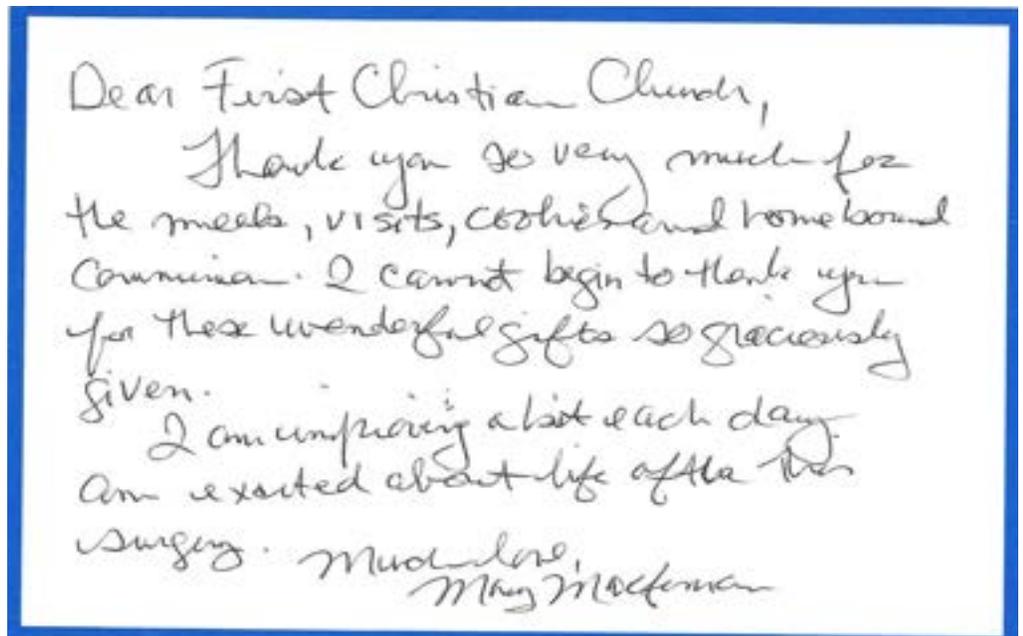
Birthdays

Names in red are youth and children

- 08/01 Butch Ladd
- 08/02 Amanda Bourland
- 08/02 Fred Schwiening
- 08/04 Bob Jones
- 08/06 Gretchen Bell
- 08/08 Kayla Stone
- 08/09 Mark Cranford
- 08/14 Ginny Estes
- 08/15 Teri Valero
- 08/15 Gene Drummond
- 08/16 Keith Gibbons
- 08/20 Tom Jones
- 08/23 **Rhett James**
- 08/25 Dave Cromwell
- 08/25 **Luis Estrada**
- 08/29 Joe Campbell
- 08/29 Layne Chisham

Anniversaries

- 08/05 Gary & Carol Thompson
- 08/08 Dave & Kathy Cromwell
- 08/20 Joe & Jill Wright





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Midland

1301 W. Louisiana Ave.

Midland, TX 79701

432.682.2541

www.fccmidland.org

Thank You For Helping Us

Exceed Our Goal

To Help Support 7

Local Elementary Schools

**Long, Jones, Rusk, South
Pease, Burnet & Henderson**



\$7125

\$7000

\$6000

\$5000

\$4000

\$3000

\$2000

\$1000

