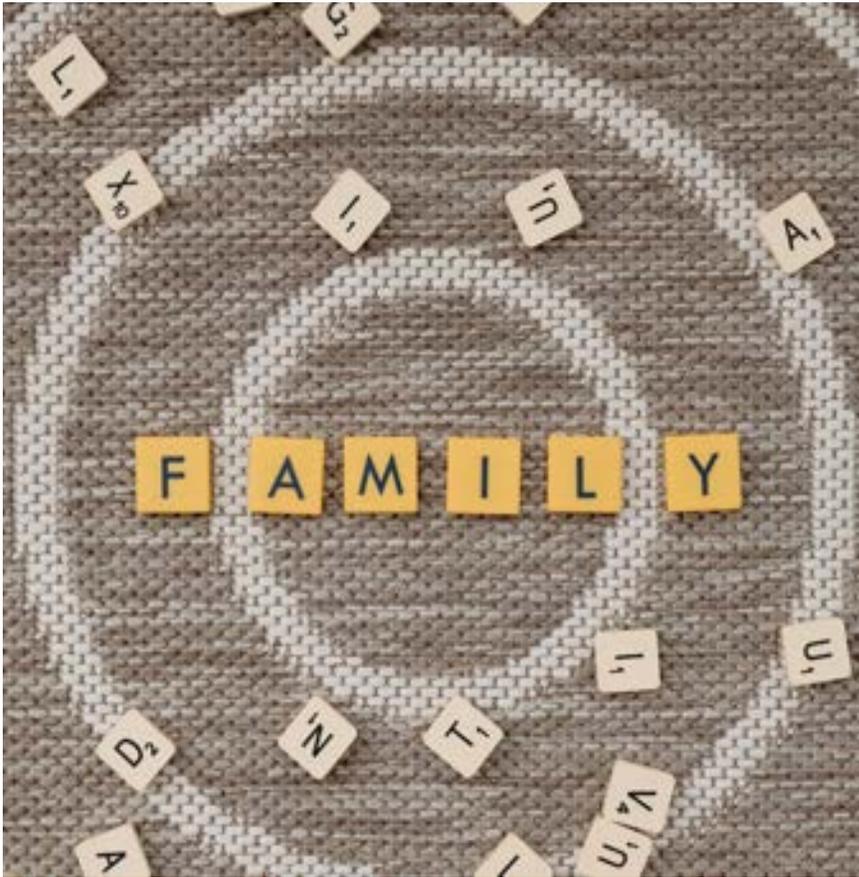




The Builder

First Christian Church
Midland

August 17, 2025 Volume 70 Issue 25



In this Issue:

Pastors' Articles
Children & Youth Programs
Recent & Upcoming Events

WEEK AT A GLANCE

SUN
AUG
17

10AM SUNDAY SCHOOL
11AM WORSHIP

TUE
AUG
19

7:30PM SCOUTING AMERICA
BOYS TROOP

WED
AUG
20

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

SUN
AUG
24

10AM SUNDAY SCHOOL
11AM WORSHIP

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Rev. David Chisham
Senior Minister

A FAMILY ROOTED IN LOVE

When Jesus began his ministry, there were a

number of things that he did “differently” from other teachers and religious leaders of his time. When some leaders insisted that no work should be done on the Sabbath (Saturday), Jesus openly healed the infirmed, sometimes right in the middle of a Synagogue (i.e., church) service.

The law insists that there are six days to heal people. Physicians were required to refrain from their work on the Sabbath, unless a person was dangerously ill. I actually looked this one up—if a woman goes into labor on the Sabbath, she is considered dangerously ill and the woman’s family and assistants are required to give their help to her in this moment of need. However, if someone is just not dangerously ill, they can wait till the next day to see the doctor.

In the book of Mark there is an interesting healing at the beginning of Jesus’ ministry. As Jesus entered a synagogue, he noticed a man with a disfigured hand. Everyone in the synagogue knew of the healings Jesus had been doing, and they were watching to see if Jesus would heal on the Sabbath. According to Mark 3:5, Jesus becomes not only indignant but downright angry that the congregation was so hard-hearted about this situation. “Is it better to do good and save a life, or do evil and kill, on a holy day?” Jesus asks them. Jesus then boldly restores the man’s hand, angering some of the religious leaders.

Mark tells us this story, encouraging us to ask why Jesus broke such an important tradition. To

be clear, Jesus could have waited for the next day (which, according to Jewish custom, begins at sundown) to heal the man and prove himself a law-abiding Jewish teacher. Following along with the story of the Gospels, we find that Jesus is helping his people understand the deeper meaning of God’s instructions. Part of that deeper meaning is love.

Anytime I see someone I love suffering, I feel compelled to do whatever I can to alleviate their pain. If my daughter falls and injures herself, I immediately sweep her up and check the injury. If my wife is dealing with a bad illness, I’m happy to cook or run to the pharmacy or do whatever I can to let her rest and speed her recovery. It’s a fundamental motivation that comes with love. This is what we do as a family.

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law.

I think that’s what Jesus felt for the man with the disfigured hand. We don’t know how long he had suffered with it, but Jesus didn’t want this man to suffer one minute more than he had to. This man was also a brother to him, just like I would do what I could to alleviate suffering for one of my own brothers as soon as I could, so Jesus wanted to see his brother healed as soon as possible. For Jesus, the law compelled him to heal this man.

In the book of Romans chapter 13, the Apostle Paul says this:

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love

one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not covet,” and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore, love is the fulfillment of the law.

In the New Testament we see a new type of relationship develop between Jesus' followers. Rather than just being co-religionists, Paul often calls other believers his brothers and sisters. He even calls the mother of Rufus, a Roman, his "mother" (Romans 16:13). This was a radical departure because generally family relations were

limited to people who shared your blood or at least were from the same people group. For Jews of the first century, your neighbor was often limited to only other Jews, people who were from their family group. Paul's extension of family connections to people who were well beyond traditional limits.

Our call, then, is to step forward in love. As Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 13, we can do everything exceedingly well, receive acclaim and notoriety and make a martyr of ourselves, but if we don't do it out of love, it was all for nothing. Make your love count!

See you at the Table,



Rev. Tom Jones
Associate Minister

As I looked around the church last week, I saw so many people I have known for a long time.

There is a lot of comfort in most long-lasting relationships. It's what we call family.

While specific relationships go through different stages, belonging to a family is one of the most important aspects of life. Family can take many forms- church, work, friendships, and many other relationships that are important to us.

**There is a lot of comfort in most long-lasting relationships.
It's what we call family.**

In a world that can be so negative and suck the life and hope out of us, may we focus on the life-giving aspects of those in our circle of friends that we call our family- a place where we belong.





School
Supply
Delivery
Thank You
FCC!!



Jones



Burnet



Rusk



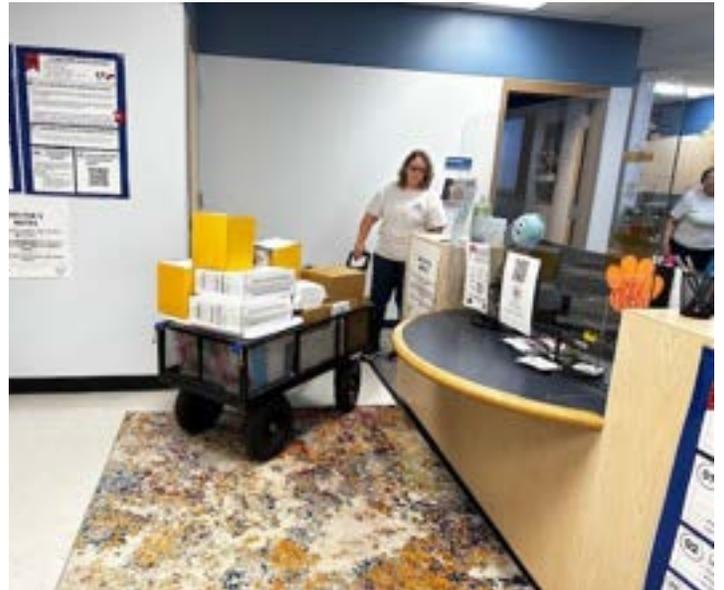
Henderson



Long



Pease



South





FCC@KIDS

Sunday School

Preschool/Kinder will listen and watch the story, "Gift for Jesus".
1st – 5th Graders will learn a little about the book of "Revelation".

Children's Church

Preschool/Kinder will hear a story about "David".
1st – 3rd Graders will listen to the story of "Paul and Silas".

Special Events

1st – 5th grade

"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"



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 Crudgington
- Gary Thompson

- friend of Pat Marshall*
- Kairos Conde-
- nephew of Olivia Espino*
- Grayson Pickett-
- friend of Jeweli Flores*
- 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*

- 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

Birthdays

Names in red are youth and children

Military:

- Tyler Brown–
- grandson of Lyn Brown*

- 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

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 –



1301 W. Louisiana Ave.

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www.fccmidland.org

Please Join Us For
September 7th

Fall Festival & Luncheon

PLEASE BRING SIDE DISH

CHICKEN & DESSERT WILL BE PROVIDED

Carnival Games, Balloon Animals & Face Painting

12pm Family Life Center/Gym