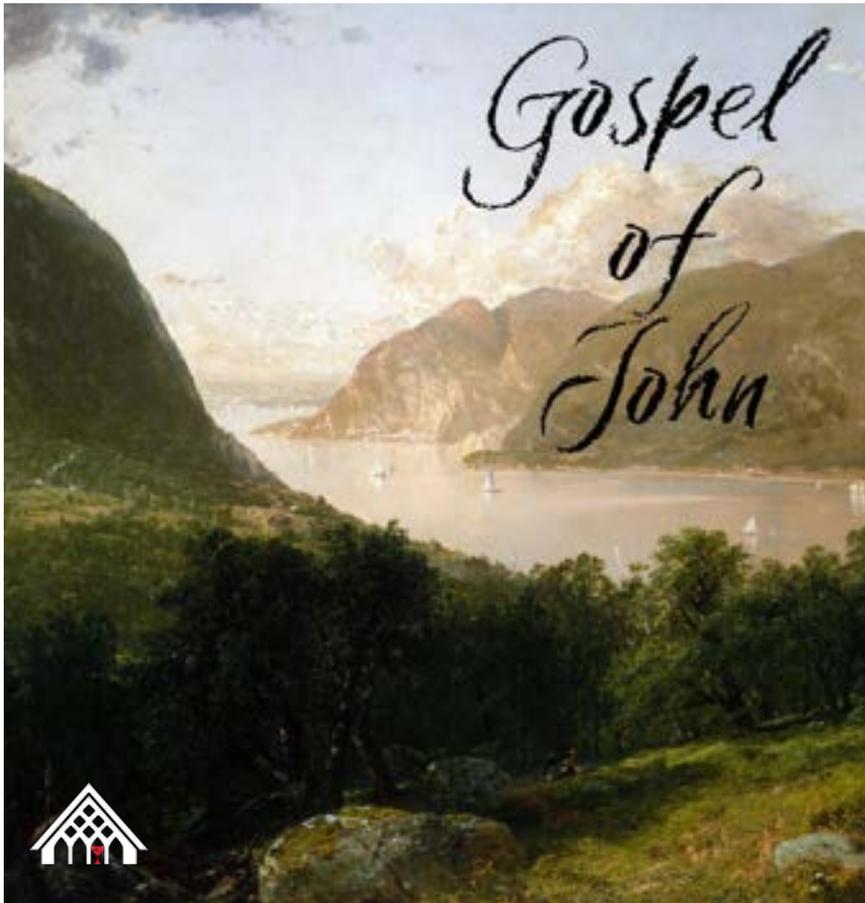




The Builder

First Christian Church
Midland

September 21, 2025 Volume 70 Issue 30



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WEEK AT A GLANCE

SAT
SEPT
20

2-4PM HANNAH WRIGHT
BRIDAL SHOWER

SUN
SEPT
21

10AM SUNDAY SCHOOL
11AM WORSHIP
4:30-6PM KIDS@FCC &
YOUTH@FCC KICK-OFF

TUE
SEPT
23

6:30PM CUB SCOUTS
FAMILY PACK K-5TH
7:30PM SCOUTING AMERICA
BOYS TROOP

WED
SEPT
24

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

SUN
SEPT
28

10AM SUNDAY SCHOOL
11AM WORSHIP
12PM BELL CHOIR MEETING
4:30-6PM KIDS@FCC &
YOUTH@FCC KICK-OFF
MEETING

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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OFFICE1@FCCMIDLAND.ORG





Rev. David Chisham
Senior Minister

Sometimes It's a Long Road

The Gospel of John stands apart from the other Gospels in several ways. Unlike the Synoptic Gospels, John contains no parables. It is the only Gospel that recounts the raising of Lazarus from the dead. There is no Christmas narrative, but instead, a profound theological reflection on the origin of Jesus as the “Word of God.”

Another distinctive feature of John's Gospel is the way Jesus interacts with individuals. In the other Gospels, Jesus often teaches his twelve disciples, correcting their misunderstandings. In John, however, he spends more time with figures such as the Samaritan woman at the well and the man born blind.

In most of these encounters, faith emerges immediately. The woman at the well rushes home to proclaim that she has found the Messiah. The man born blind, though rejected by his family and synagogue, openly confesses his faith to Jesus. But there is one encounter where faith takes longer to develop.

In John 3, Nicodemus, a Pharisee, comes to Jesus by night. John frequently employs symbolism, and in this case, the darkness not only reflects Nicodemus's hesitancy and mistrust, but also suggests his spiritual confusion.

At the end of this conversation, even after hearing Jesus utter the famous words—“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son...”—Nicodemus does not profess faith. Instead, his last recorded words are, “How can this be?”

Jesus' response, paraphrased, is essentially: “You are a teacher of Israel, and you do not understand these things?”

Yet a seed was planted. Later, when the Jewish leaders attempted to arrest Jesus, Nicodemus protested, insisting that everyone deserves a fair hearing. Though still uncertain about Jesus' identity, Nicodemus sensed there was something in him that could not simply be dismissed.

**Each path is unique,
yet Jesus welcomes us all with
the same grace and love.**

Finally, after Jesus' crucifixion, Nicodemus assisted Joseph of Arimathea in preparing Jesus' body for burial. He brought about 100 pounds of embalming spices—far more than customary—signifying that he was honoring royalty, not just a man. Three days later, Nicodemus may well have witnessed the resurrection, but even before that, his devotion to the crucified one revealed the growth of genuine faith.

Some people come to faith instantly. Others, like Nicodemus, take a longer journey. Each path is unique, yet Jesus welcomes us all with the same grace and love. What does your path to Jesus look like? Know this: he welcomes you with open arms.

See you at the Table,





Rev. Tom Jones
Associate Minister

One of my favorite scriptures in John when Jesus and his disciples approach a blind man and the disciples asked, "Who sinned? The man or his parents?"

The disciples were curious and wanted to know why the man was blind. That is so like us. Today we want to find someone to blame and hold responsible. Or we may ask "Why?" However, Jesus responded and said "Neither sinned. This happened so the works of God may be known to him."

That is so like us. Today we want to find someone to blame and hold responsible.

Instead of looking for a reason, look for God. One of the biggest joys of my life is seeing God in the lives of those with disabilities. God is present throughout our lives and in our different situations. May we see God in our lives and in the lives of others.

Tom

CLC@FCC

Apple stamping!





CHILDREN'S SUNDAY

AND CHILD/INFANT DEDICATION

OCTOBER 19, 2025
11AM-12PM



WE NEED YOUR CHILDREN!

Pre-K through 5th Grades will begin practicing during Sunday School (10:00-10:45am) beginning September 14th.

- PreK/Kinder will practice in the **nursery**.
- 1st through 5th Grades will practice in the **Kid Cave**.
- 1st through 5th Grades will also practice during @Kids meetings (Sunday evenings from 4:30-6:00pm). Please double-check the bulletin and the Kid's Calendar for these dates.
- **DRESS REHEARSAL** for 1st through 5th grades on Wednesday, October 15 from 5:30-7:00pm in the Sanctuary. Dinner provided.

Let us know if you would like your child or infant to participate in the **dedication service**. All other children will help lead the **worship service**.

All friends and family are invited to attend!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!

Email Tamara Conn for more information.
Tconn@fccmidland.org

KIDS@FCC

Sunday School

Preschool/Kinder will hear the story about "The Last Supper."
1st-5th Graders will learn about "The Ascension" and other stories in the New Testament.

Children's Church

Preschool/Kinder will listen to stories about Elijah (I Kings).
1st-3rd Graders will learn about the "Parable of the Mustard Seed."

Sunday Afternoon

Kids will continue to rehearse for Children's Sunday. They will also get the usual devotional, games, snacks, and craft. Drop off and pick up at the Kid Cave.

Special Events

October 19 - "Children's Sunday with Child and Infant Dedication" during 11am Worship
December 6 - Santa Event (TBA)
December 14 - Night in Bethlehem (TBA)



Youth@FCC Kick-Off





Prayer List

Those in need of prayer:

- Marty Wallace
- Bruce Stanley
- Chris Huff
- Betty Couch
- Cinnimon Stanford
- Abraham Ortega
- Kaylene Burgard
- Nancy Stanley
- 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
- Robin Diegan & Jason Diegan-
cousins of Ginny Estes
- Amanda Bryant-
friend of Dave & Kathy Cromwell
- 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

- 09/26 Courtney Gordon
- 09/29 Hill Glover
- 09/30 Kaylene Burgard

Anniversaries

- 09/01 Bruce & Nancy Stanley

Birthdays

Names in red are youth and children

- 09/02 Kathy Landrum
- 09/05 Lauren Disney
- 09/06 Bob Garrett
- 09/08 Hunter Kilborn
- 09/14 Skye Hattenbach
- 09/17 Kathy Cromwell
- 09/18 Justin Stephenson
- 09/18 **Hayden Resch**
- 09/20 Janice Ford
- 09/21 Victoria Gilkerson
- 09/21 Patricia Marshall
- 09/23 Sandy Faulkner
- 09/25 Vinson Cooper



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www.fccmidland.org

Love God and everyone.
Grow as faithful believers.
Serve together.

