



The Builder

First Christian Church
Midland

November 16, 2025

Volume 71 Issue 37



WEEK AT A GLANCE

**SUN
NOV
16** 10AM SUNDAY SCHOOL
11AM WORSHIP
12PM ALL CHURCH LUNCHEON

**TUE
NOV
18** 6:30PM CUB SCOUTS
FAMILY PACK K-5TH
7:30PM SCOUTING AMERICA
BOYS TROOP

**WED
NOV
19** 7AM MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST
9AM DISCIPLES FOOD PANTRY
5:30PM EXECUTIVE MEETING
7PM CHOIR PRACTICE

**THUR
NOV
20** 6PM ELDERS MEETING
MONTGOMERY ROOM

**SUN
NOV
23** 10AM SUNDAY SCHOOL
11AM WORSHIP

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Rev. David Chisham
Senior Minister

Has God Put Something on Your Heart Lately?

Let's start with a question:
Has God put something on

your heart lately? If you're like me, you may be tempted to answer, "Yes, but I'm still waiting for Him to extend some extra resources to cover the tab, too."

Now, before you think this is about to become a financial seminar, let me assure you: this is not about getting rich quick, unless you count the wealth of good stories you'll collect. There's a lot of fine print in this end-user agreement: there's no guarantee, no warranty, and no returns. However, sometimes a small gesture of generosity can make a world of difference.

I remember about ten years ago, we were staring at an empty bank account with bills coming due. We'd counted, recounted, and even tried that old trick of checking the pockets of clothing in the closet to see if it would cough up a few forgotten dollar bills. Spoiler alert: It didn't. We were short, and the math was not mathing in our favor.

Then, as if on cue, a personal check arrived in the mail. And not just any check, but one for the exact amount we were short. I half expected to see a note attached that said, "Chisham, I got your 6. – God." In a way, there was. The person who sent it said, "God just put it on my heart to send this," with no prompting from us whatsoever. It was as if God had peeked at our family budget spreadsheet (and our family stress spreadsheet) and sent in reinforcements.

Since then, I've heard countless stories just like ours—people quietly moved to give, to help, to be

there at just the right time with no expectation of return. Sometimes it's money, sometimes it's a meal, sometimes it's the gift of time or encouragement. I recently heard a story about someone who turned the world upside down for a homeless veteran. But always, it's because someone listened when God whispered in their heart.

In this season of Thanksgiving, we stand at a threshold. It's easy to get swept up in the excitement of the big feast, Black Friday sales, and the preparations for Christmas. Yet this is also a moment to contemplate a deeper choice: the path of consuming versus contributing. Imagine the impact when we pivot from self-interest to transformational action, pausing to ask, 'What is God putting on my heart?' Because, as we've experienced, when people tune into those divine nudges, remarkable things start happening—for the better.

Listen. Listen closely for what God is putting on your heart.

Now, let's talk about generosity for a moment. I know what you're thinking: "Oh great, here comes the guilt trip!" But hold on. Generosity isn't meant to be a spiritual version of a late-night religious infomercial: 'Call now and watch the blessings pour in! But wait, there's more!' No, biblical generosity is something altogether different. It's not about giving with anxiety, guilt, or the secret hope that God is keeping some sort of cosmic tally sheet.

The Apostle Paul says it best: "God loves a cheerful giver." Not a nervous giver. Not a planned-to-the-last-detail giver. And definitely not a "fine, take it, but I'd rather spend it at

Starbucks” giver. Cheerful. The kind of giving that happens when your heart is light, your hands are open, and you’re not secretly expecting a return on your investment.

So this Thanksgiving, as you pass the turkey and trimmings, consider what’s being placed on your heart. Is there someone you can bless, encourage, or help? Don’t overthink it. Don’t look for excuses. Don’t check what football games are on TV that day. Don’t wait for perfect circumstances. Sometimes, generosity is as simple as acting on a spur-of-the-moment quiet nudge—or, if you’re like me, that not-so-quiet “nudge” that sounds suspiciously like your spouse saying, “We should help them.”

Here’s the call to action: Listen. Listen closely for what God is putting on your heart. Maybe it’s a neighbor in need, a stranger at the store, or a friend who could use a kind word. You never know what might happen, or how you might be part of someone else’s story of God’s provision. And

don't keep these stories to yourself. Share them with your community, your church, your social circles. Encourage others by showing how small acts of generosity have made a big impact. Be careful not to seek attention, but when we share our experiences, we create a ripple effect of inspiration that can multiply the generosity around us.

And if you find yourself on the receiving end, take a moment to thank God for His surprising, sometimes hilarious, always timely generosity. After all, the greatest riches are found not in what we keep, but in what we give away—cheerfully, thankfully, and maybe with a shot of humorous irony along the way.

See you at the Table,



Rev. Tom Jones
Associate Minister

An adult with an intellectual disability was asked to rank how much they like themselves when they are in church. She said ZERO.

When asked why she chose Zero, she said, “You are supposed to like other people. That’s what Jesus wants.”

Being generous comes from our outlook on life. Many are focused inward- on their brand, their legacy, how people see me.

Generous people focus on others. It’s how they see others-made in God’s image.

We can be generous with our time, presence, and the gifts we have been blessed with, because that is what Jesus wants.

**Generous people focus on others.
It’s how they see others-made
in God’s image.**



The Chalice Fund Angel Tree

One of the Outreach Ministries offered by our First Christian Church family is “The Chalice Fund”. This is a once-a-year opportunity to make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate in our community.

Here some ways you can help:

Angel Tree ADOPTION: Sunday November 9th & 16th -There will be two trees adorned with ornaments to select from. If you chose a younger child (Newborn-10yrs), we are asking that you spend about \$130, which should be enough to buy an outfit, a coat and a small toy. For an older child (11-18yrs), we are asking that you spend about \$160, since clothing is more expensive for them. This should enable these older children to receive an outfit and coat. If you need to be reimbursed or need a record for tax purposes, return your receipts to Lee'Ayn in the church office.

GIFTS SHOULD BE RETURNED TO THE CHURCH BY December 9th.

DONATION: If you would rather not buy gifts, you can donate to the Chalice Fund. The money for this Outreach Ministry is collected as a special donation. Please mark your check “The Chalice Fund”. The money donated is used for reimbursements as well as for the \$100.00 Walmart Gift Cards given to the parent or guardian of each family. Families with four or more children will receive a \$200.00 gift card. This will allow the parent or guardian to buy food or other items they may need during the holidays.

PRAYER: Please pray that this Outreach Ministry will make a difference in the lives of the children we touch, and that through this ministry we can be a living example of the Jesus we worship and celebrate at this time of the year and all year.

Thank you so much for considering participating in this ministry.

“The Chalice Fund” Coordinators

Jeweli Flores (432)210-6098 jflores@fccmidland.org

Kori Chisham (703)371-0713 klchisham@gmail.com



Sunday Night Youth & Children's Programs



Bring new baby formula of any kind to help babies affected by the shutdown of SNAP benefits

Formula for Faith

Drop-Off Locations:
 Midland- First Christian, First Presbyterian, St. Nicholas Episcopal, Grace Presbyterian, West Texas Food Bank
 Odessa- Connection Christian, Hope Alive, First Presbyterian, Temple Beth-El, West Texas Food Bank

KIDS@FCC

Sunday School (10:00-10:45am)

PreK will hear about Jesus' ascension (Luke 24)
Children (Kinder - 5th grade) will continue the series on Angels of the Old Testament.

Children's Church (Sundays during Worship)

PreK will hear about Jonah.
Children (Kinder - 3rd grade) will learn about David (I & II Samuel)

KIDS@FCC (Sundays 4:30-6:00pm)

Nov 16: No meeting due to Thanksgiving luncheon

Calendar (for the remainder of 2025)

Nov 23: No meeting due to Thanksgiving break

Nov 30: Children sing for Lighting of the Greens at 11am; Christmas party combine with Youth (TBA)

Dec 7: Church-wide caroling (TBA)

Dec 14: Night in Bethlehem (TBA)

Dec 21-Dec 28: No meetings due to Christmas break

CLC@FCC

Open House was a success. Thank you to everyone who joined us.



Prayer List

Those in need of prayer:

- Judy Hunnicutt
- Mike Harrison
- Marty Wallace
- Bruce Stanley
- Chris Huff
- Betty Couch
- Cinnamon 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

- Nolan Gandy-*friend of Terry Perry*
- Cindy Garcia- *CLC Teacher*
- Kairos Conde-*nephew of Olivia Espino*
- 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*

Birthdays

Names in red are youth and children

- 11/04 Luke Bourland
- 11/05 C.C. Petteway
- 11/13 Hannah Wright
- 11/13 Joan Huff
- 11/16 Sheila Crudgington
- 11/16 Martha Fentem
- 11/19 Jeannine Hurst
- 11/25 Connie Hawkins
- 11/27 Rylea Tercero
- 11/30 Jean Jones

Anniversaries

- 11/09 Bill & Sharon Boyd
- 11/10 Chris & Joan Huff
- 11/30 Gene & Beverly Drummond

Celebration of Life

There will be a celebration of life for
Margy House on
December 6th at 2:30pm in the
First Christian Church Sanctuary.

Please keep the House Family
in your prayers.

New Member

Please welcome
Shane Perley who
Placed membership at
First Christian.





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Sunday, November 16th

Please Join Us For

**All Church Thanksgiving Luncheon
Honoring our Young at Heart**

Immediately Following Worship

**Please bring your favorite dessert or side dish church
is providing Turkey, Ham, Dressing, rolls & drinks!**

Family Life Center/Gym