



The Builder

First Christian Church
Midland

November 23, 2025

Volume 71 Issue 38



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WEEK AT A GLANCE

**SUN
NOV
23** 10AM SUNDAY SCHOOL
11AM WORSHIP
3PM BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL

CHURCH OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

**WED-
FRIDAY
NOV
19-28** WED 19 CHURCH OFFICE
CLOSED AT NOON
THUR 20 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
HAPPY THANKSGIVING
FRI 21 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

**SUN
NOV
30** 10AM SUNDAY SCHOOL
11AM WORSHIP
2:30PM BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL
4PM CHILDREN & YOUTH
CHRISTMAS PARTIES

**WED
DEC
3** 7AM MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST
9AM FOOD PANTRY
7PM CHOIR

**SUN
DEC
7** 10AM SUNDAY SCHOOL
11AM WORSHIP
3PM BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL
4:30PM CAROLING

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Rev. David Chisham
Senior Minister

As we approach Thanksgiving, my heart is filled with gratitude—for family, for faith, and for the blessings we share as a

community. Like many of you, I'm eagerly anticipating the big day ahead. This year, my wife's family will be joining us, and I'm already planning to fire up the smoker for a turkey feast, surrounded by all the sides and desserts that make Thanksgiving special. There's something about sharing a meal, laughter, and stories with loved ones that reminds us of the goodness of God and the abundance He provides.

Thanksgiving is more than just a holiday; it's an invitation to pause and reflect on the gifts in our lives. Whether you'll be gathering with a houseful of family, connecting with friends, or spending a quieter day at home, I hope you find moments to give thanks—for answered prayers, for challenges that helped you grow, and for the everyday mercies that sometimes go unnoticed. In a world that urges us to rush from one event to the next, Thanksgiving asks us to slow down and savor the simple joys.

Yet, as anyone who's flipped a calendar lately knows, we don't have long to linger! Almost as soon as the last slice of pie is gone, we turn our attention to the next season in our church life: Advent. This coming Sunday, right after worship, we'll be setting up Christmas trees in the sanctuary—a joyful sign that our community is ready to welcome the coming of Christ once again. It's always amazing to see the sanctuary transformed, filled with light and hope, as we prepare our hearts for the story of Jesus' birth.

This year's Advent theme, "A Branch from the

Stump of Jesse," draws from the powerful prophecies found throughout Scripture. Both the Old and New Testaments are filled with promises of a Savior, and during Advent we'll explore how those ancient words point us to Jesus. We're excited to share a special devotional booklet with everyone, designed to guide you through this season of expectation and reflection. I encourage you to pick one up for yourself and maybe an extra for a friend or neighbor who could use some encouragement.

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I know your calendars are packed but save room for (at least) two special events coming up! On Sunday afternoon, December 7, we'll gather for caroling—a wonderful opportunity to spread cheer and share the good news through song. Then, on the evening of Sunday, December 14, our much-anticipated "Night in Bethlehem" returns, complete with a live camel this year! Brenda Morris has indicated this would be her last year directing this program--let's support her, and if someone is interested in taking up that project for next year, let's start talking! Bring your friends, your family, and your childlike sense of wonder.

As we move from Thanksgiving into Advent, I'm reminded of how these seasons fit together. Thanksgiving teaches us to recognize and celebrate God's blessings. Advent calls us to look forward in hope to the greatest blessing of all: the coming of Christ. It's a time to be grateful, yes, but also to prepare our hearts for the new things God is doing in our midst.

Wishing you and your loved ones a very happy Thanksgiving. May your home be filled with gratitude, peace, and the warmth of God's love. And get ready because as soon as the dishes are done and the turkey has been enjoyed, we'll leap

together into a season of anticipation, wonder, and joy.

See you at the Table,



Rev. Tom Jones
Associate Minister

Being thankful can take place on many different levels.

We can be thankful for our possessions and all that we

have. But to really be thankful, we must be able to see that our life and all of its blessings are a gift from God.

It's important to be able to receive blessings and acknowledge that they came from God, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. The ability to see God in our lives and in the lives of those around us can help us develop an attitude of thanksgiving. God is the One who is always giving to us.

May we open our hearts and minds to God who chooses to be present in our lives. And may we be thankful for the many gifts we receive from His hand.

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KIDS@FCC

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

11/23: PreK will hear about Pentecost (Acts 2);

11/30: Advent (Mary)

Children (Kinder - 5th grade) will continue the series on Angels of the Old Testament.

Children's Church (Sundays during Worship)

11/23: PreK will hear about the Feast of Booths;

11/30: Advent 1

11/23: Children (Kinder - 3rd grade) will learn about David (I & II Samuel); 11/30: Advent (Promise)

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

Nov 23: No meeting due to Thanksgiving break

Nov 30:

Hanging of the Greens Service: Children sing for Lighting of the Greens at 11am. Meet in the sanctuary by 10am.

Christmas Party: Drop off at 4pm, pick up at 8pm. Please RSVP Tamara at

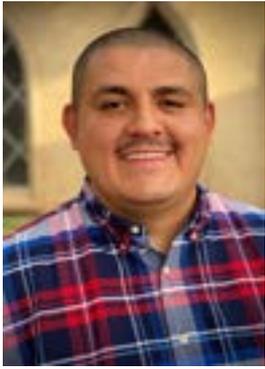
tconn@fccmidland.org.

Calendar (for the remainder of 2025)

Dec 7: Church-wide caroling (TBA)

Dec 14: Night in Bethlehem (TBA)

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



Rev. Remy Tercero
Associate Minister

Thanksgiving

As Thanksgiving approaches, our calendars begin to fill, our kitchens grow busy, and our tables prepare to hold more food and family than any other day of the year. Yet for people of faith, Thanksgiving is more than a holiday, it is a perspective.

Gratitude is not something reserved for when life is smooth and predictable. It is a way of seeing God's hand at work even in the ordinary moments, the difficult seasons, and the unseen blessings that surround us each day. Thanksgiving is less about a date on the calendar and more about a rhythm of worship.

This year, as we gather around tables or find ourselves in quieter places, we are invited to pause and remember the faithfulness of God. Every good gift, breath in our lungs, the love of family, the fellowship of our church, and the hope we carry in Christ, is a reminder that God continues to provide.

Even the challenges we face can become places where gratitude deepens, shaping us to trust more fully in the One who holds us.

This year, as we gather around tables or find ourselves in quieter places, we are invited to pause and remember the faithfulness of God.

Let us also remember that gratitude naturally overflows into generosity. A thankful heart becomes a giving heart. As we consider the abundance God has placed in our hands, may we look for ways to bless others, or share a meal, offer a word of encouragement, or extend grace to someone who needs it.

May God open our eyes to His goodness, soften our hearts with gratitude, and fill our lives with the joy of knowing Him. Whether your table is full or small this year, know that you are loved, seen, and held by the God who gives every perfect gift.



December 7th @ 4:30pm



All Church Caroling Party



Youth Group Retreat at Lake Brownwood Christian Retreat



Advent 2025 Calendar



*A Branch
from the
Stump of
Jesse...*

Prophecies for
the Messiah

- Sunday, November 30 **First Sunday of Advent**
Worship Service, 11am, Sanctuary
Hanging of the Greens
Poinsettias & Beans (Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries)
4pm Children & Youth Christmas Party
- Sunday, December 7 **Second Sunday of Advent**
Worship Service, 11am, Sanctuary
4:30pm Christmas Caroling, meet in Family Life Center/Gym
Poinsettias & Beans (Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries)
- Sunday, December 14 **Third Sunday of Advent**
Choir Christmas Music Program, 11am Sanctuary
Poinsettias & Beans (Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries)
Christmas Offering benefiting the Regional Church
Night In Bethlehem, 6pm, in Family Life Center/Gym
- Sunday, December 21 **Fourth Sunday of Advent**
Worship Service, 11am, Sanctuary
Christmas Offering benefiting the Regional Church
- Wednesday, December 24 **Christmas Eve**
Candlelight Communion Service, 6pm, Sanctuary
Church Office Closed
- Thursday, December 25 **Christmas Day**
Church Office Closed
- Friday, December 26 **Church Office Closed**
- Wednesday, December 31 **New Years Eve**
- Thursday, January 1 **New Years Day**
Church Office Closed



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 Keahfriend 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.

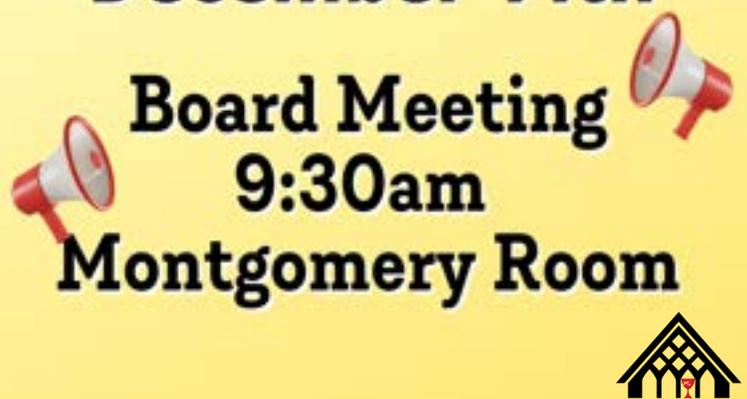
Please keep the House Family
in your prayers.

December 14th

Board Meeting

9:30am

Montgomery Room





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

