



The Builder

First Christian Church
Midland

December 21, 2025

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WEEK AT A GLANCE

SUN
DEC
21 10AM SUNDAY SCHOOL
11AM WORSHIP

TUE
DEC
23 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
AT NOON

WED
DEC
24 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
6PM CHRISTMAS EVE
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

DEC
25-26 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

SUN
DEC
28 10AM SUNDAY SCHOOL
11AM WORSHIP

DEC
31
JAN
1 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSING AT
NOON ON DEC 31 AND WILL
BE CLOSED ON JAN 1

SUN
JAN
4 10AM SUNDAY SCHOOL
11AM WORSHIP



Rev. David Chisham
Senior Minister

THE GREATEST OF THESE IS LOVE

The season of Advent invites us to reflect on four core ideals of our faith: hope,

peace, joy, and love. Each week, we light a candle and name one of these gifts, not only as something we long for, but as something God desires for the world. During this season, we strive to make these ideals more present in our lives. Yet, if we are honest, many of them point us beyond the present moment and toward what is still to come.

Hope, by its very nature, is forward-looking. It draws our hearts toward a future that is, in some way, brighter and more whole than our present reality. We hope for the fulfillment of God's reign and kingdom on earth. We hope for a time when justice will be complete, suffering will be healed, and creation will rest in God's care. These hopes are not always fulfilled in our lifetimes. God's people have carried them across generations, often in the midst of hardship. Still, we do not give up living as people of hope, trusting that God remains faithful.

To love today is to participate in something already eternal.

Peace, too, stretches beyond our immediate experience. We may know moments of calm or reconciliation, but God's peace—shalom—is deeper and more expansive. It is a peace marked

by balance, harmony, and abundance, extending to every living creature. While we may taste this wholeness from time to time, an end to war, hatred, famine, and poverty often feels frustratingly distant. Even so, Advent reminds us that God's peace is not an illusion, but a promise.

Joy also leans toward the future, even as it shapes our present. Joy is not merely happiness tied to circumstances. Paul could write with joy even while imprisoned, trusting that God's promises held true despite suffering and uncertainty. The Israelites, too, embraced joy during seasons of sorrow and oppression, believing that God would rescue and restore them. Joy, then, becomes an act of trust—a declaration that God's story is not finished.

But love, while it also points us forward, can be a deeply present reality.

We experience love when we encounter Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, God-with-us. In the incarnation, God does not merely promise love from a distance; God embodies love and enters fully into human life. We experience love as we are shaped by grace, forgiven, and welcomed into God's family. We experience love through relationships—through those God places in our lives to encourage us, challenge us, and walk alongside us. And we live out love when we care for others, especially when doing so costs us something.

At the end of 1 Corinthians 13, Paul writes, "And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love."

We have already seen how hope looks forward. Scripture teaches us that there will come a day when hope will no longer be necessary. When we dwell fully in the presence of God, hope will give way to fulfillment. What we have longed for will finally be complete.

Faith, too, is bound up with hope. As the letter to the Hebrews tells us, “Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” Yet there will come a time when faith itself will no longer be required, because we will see God face to face. What we trust in now will one day be fully revealed.

But love—love never ends. In the full presence of God, love does not fade or pass away. To love today is to participate in something already eternal. When we choose patience over anger, generosity over fear, compassion over

indifference, we are living into the very life of God.

As we move through this final week of Advent, may we go forth as active bearers of God’s unconditional and enduring love. May that love shape how we speak, how we listen, and how we care for one another. And may we remember that in loving others, we are already stepping into the life God promises, now and always.

See you at the Table,



Rev. Tom Jones
Associate Minister

Every Christmas brings back memories.

In 1981, my mom passed away after a long bout with cancer two days before Christmas. As her end was nearing, she called each family member into her hospital room to have one last talk.

**Giving oneself for others.
That is God’s love.**

When it was my turn, I went in the room. I was 25 and had epilepsy since I was 3. She said, “All I ever wanted was for you to not have seizures.” I said, “I know mama.” God looks after his children in the same way. He hurts when they are hurting. And God, like my mom, tried so many ways to stop the hurt his children were going through.

God intervenes and sends his son to live in our world, experience the joys and sadness of life, and ultimately to die because of the cruelty of humankind. It is as if God is saying, “All I ever wanted was for you to be my people.” God sacrificed his son’s life for our life. Giving oneself for others. That is God’s love.



Recycle your used plastic grocery bags. Bring them to church and place them in the marked container in the Narthex to be used in the food pantry!



We are needing office help on the 2nd Monday each month from 10am-noon. We need help answering phone and door while staff is having a meeting. If you can help please call the church office. 432-628-2541

KIDS@FCC

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

12/21, 12/28: PreK will hear about Advent (Baby Jesus & Shepherds).

12/21, 12/28: Children (Kinder - 5th grade) will continue their series about Angels of the New Testament.

Children's Church (Sundays during Worship)

Dec. 21: PreK will hear about Advent.

Dec. 21: Children (Kinder - 3rd grade) will hear about Advent IV (Joy).

Dec. 28: PreK will hear the "After Christmas Story."

Dec. 28: Children (Kinder - 3rd grade) will hear the "After Christmas Story." will learn about Advent (Hope).

Calendar:

Dec 21: Take Home Advent Devotionals - 1 per family. Get yours in the Narthex. Also available during the Christmas Eve Service, Dec. 24th at 6pm.

Dec 21-Jan 4: No meetings due to Christmas break

Jan 11: Snowball activity in the gym (combined with Youth) from 4:30-6:00pm

Night In Bethlehem



CLC@FCC Christmas Pageants





FCC Christmas Music Sunday





Prayer List

Those in need of prayer:

- J. Ray Stewart
- Joy Singleton
- 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

- Nola Damon – *friend of Jeweli Flores*
- 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

Birthdays

- 12/02 Ryleigh Kosanke
- 12/04 Remy Tercero
- 12/04 Troy Campbell
- 12/05 Zoe Hodges
- 12/05 Doug Wills
- 12/08 J Ray Stewart
- 12/10 **McKynlea Estrada**
- 12/12 Pat Chambers
- 12/15 Kris Evers
- 12/15 Judy Hunnicutt
- 12/16 **Jaxon Jones**
- 12/16 Angela Mainwaring
- 12/17 **Nathaniel Dzuik**
- 12/17 Joe Wright
- 12/18 Lillian Cranford
- 12/20 Kori Chisham
- 12/20 Gail Caudle
- 12/21 Elizabeth Resch
- 12/23 Sara Gail Cranford

- 12/29 Dustin Hattenbach
- 12/29 Cinnamon Stanford

Anniversaries

- 12/13 Mike & Brenda Harrison
- 12/13 Eddie & Linda Hyatt
- 12/14 Remy & Miranda Tercero
- 12/16 Clay & Cinnamon Stanford
- 12/18 Jim & Brenda Morris
- 12/18 George & Elin Perley
- 12/19 David & Kori Chisham
- 12/21 Ray & Austella Berry
- 12/21 Jed & Patti Heard
- 12/22 Cecilio & Jeweli Flores
- 12/24 Butch & Sherry Ladd
- 12/27 David & Peggy Davis
- 12/30 Bob & Carolyn Jones

Youth and Children are in Red

Year-End Contributions

Remember that contributions must be received or postmarked by **December 31** to receive Tax Credit for the 2025 year. You can also give online through our website at www.fccmidland.org. Thank you for your generosity throughout the year! Your tithes and offerings enable us to share the Good News of Christ, support our staff and programs, and be a place where we all can “Love God and everyone, Grow as faithful disciples, and Serve Together!”



1301 W. Louisiana Ave.
Midland, TX 79701
432.682.2541
www.fccmidland.org



Christmas Eve
Candlelight
Service

December 24th

6pm

