



The Builder

First Christian Church
Midland

January 18, 2026

Volume 71 Issue 3

Love
God and everyone.

Grow
as faithful believers.

Serve
together.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

SUN
JAN
18
10AM SUNDAY SCHOOL
11AM WORSHIP

TUE
JAN
20
6:30 SCOUTING AMERICA
CUBSCOUT PACK 67
7PM SCOUTING AMERICA
BOY TROOP 175

WED
JAN
21
7AM MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST
9:30AM FOOD PANTRY
5:30PM EXECUTIVE MEETING

SUN
JAN
25
10AM SUNDAY SCHOOL
11AM WORSHIP
4:30PM KIDS GROW & YOUTH GROW
KICK OFF

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Recent & Upcoming Events

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Rev. David Chisham
Senior Minister

Love. Grow. Serve. Setting Our Hearts and Lives Toward the Year Ahead

The beginning of a new year often invites reflection. We

look back on what has been and look ahead to what might be. Many of us are accustomed to setting resolutions, promises to ourselves about habits we want to change or goals we hope to accomplish. And yet, for many Christians, spiritual life can feel harder to name with that same clarity. We know we want to grow closer to God, but we are not always sure how to say what that means in practice.

This year, as a congregation, we are being invited into a simple but intentional way of thinking about our shared life of faith: **Love God and everyone. Grow as faithful believers. Serve together.** These words are drawn directly from our mission, but they are more than a statement on a wall. They are a way of ordering our lives as disciples of Jesus.

Over the next few weeks in worship, we will be inviting everyone to set **Love, Grow, and Serve goals** for the year ahead. This is not a test of faithfulness, and certainly not a competition. It is a prayerful exercise in intention. These goals are meant to be concrete enough to guide us, and gracious enough to meet us where we are. The Gospel of Matthew, which we will be reading together throughout this year, offers a helpful lens for this kind of intentionality. Matthew's Gospel is deeply concerned with what it looks like to actually live the life of faith. Jesus does not simply announce good news. He calls people to follow, to practice, and to embody a way of life

shaped by love, trust, mercy, and obedience. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus speaks directly to the daily patterns of our lives: how we pray, how we give, how we forgive, and how we treat one another. Again and again, Matthew presents Jesus as one who invites people not just to believe something about God, but to orient their lives toward God's kingdom. "Where your treasure is," Jesus says, "there your heart will be also." These are words about attention, direction, and intention.

Setting spiritual goals is not about earning God's favor. Grace always comes first. Rather, it is about responding to grace with a willingness to be shaped. When we name how we hope to Love, Grow, and Serve, we are simply saying, "Here is how I want my life to lean toward God this year." For some, a Love goal might involve deepening prayer, committing to regular worship, or practicing gratitude in daily life. A Grow goal might look like joining a class, engaging Scripture more intentionally, or asking hard questions about faith in a trusted community. A Serve goal might be as simple as finding one way to offer time or presence, whether through care ministries, hospitality, outreach, or quiet acts of service that often go unseen.

None of these need to be dramatic. In Matthew's Gospel, faithfulness is often found in small, steady acts: seeds planted, lamps kept burning, and servants who show up day after day. What matters is not how impressive the goal sounds, but whether it helps us remain attentive to God's work in and through us.

Alongside this invitation to set personal goals, we are also asking the congregation to reflect on generosity as part of our shared life. Offering an annual estimate of giving is one way we align our intentions with our resources. These estimates

help our leaders plan responsibly for the ministries we share together, and they remind us that giving, too, is a spiritual practice and an expression of trust and gratitude.

Matthew presents Jesus as one who invites people not just to believe something about God, but to orient their lives toward God's kingdom.

As always, we recognize that life circumstances change, and that generosity takes many forms. This season is not about pressure, but about clarity and care for ourselves, for one another, and for the mission God has entrusted to us. As we begin this new year and immerse ourselves in the Gospel of Matthew, may we resist the temptation to drift. Instead, may we choose intention over habit, attention over distraction, and faithfulness over fear. And may these simple words, Love, Grow, Serve, continue to shape us as a people learning to follow Jesus together.

See you at the Table,



Rev. Tom Jones
Associate Minister

As Jesus encountered his first disciples in the gospel of John, they asked "Where are you staying?" They wanted to learn more. Jesus replied "Come and see." The first disciples were yearning for something more. They wanted a deeper relationship with Jesus. Jesus gave the disciples and invitation when he said, "Come and see."

FCC's emphasis on LOVE. GROW. SERVE. is an invitation to deepen your relationship with Christ. You are invited to explore ways where you

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can express love, grow in your faith, and serve God and one another. As you consider these aspects of your Christian life, you are invited to set goals for yourself. And know that you are not alone, because we love, grow, and serve together—as a family of God and disciples of Christ. May God continue to work in your life.



KIDSGROW@FCC

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

PreK will hear about Jesus' Baptism (Matthew 3 & 4).

Children (Kinder - 5th grade) will continue the series from the Grow Curriculum called "Blast Off!"

This week, we will focus on spending time with others, and help each other grow closer to Jesus.

Children's Church (Sundays during Worship)

PreK will hear about "Jesus is Lost!"

Children (Kinder - 3rd grade) will hear about the Parable of the Good Shepherd (John 10).

KidsGrow@FCC (Sunday Evenings from 4:30-6:00pm)

Dismissed until the 25th

Upcoming:

Feb. 8 - Super Bowl Party at Lucky Strike in Midland (RSVP Tamara at tconn@fccmidland.org. \$10 per person. Scholarships available.)

April 26 - NexGen Service

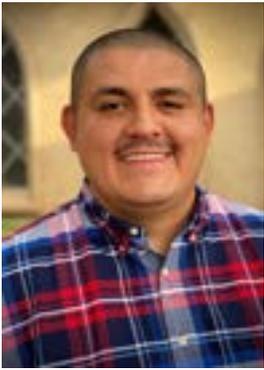
June 22-25 - VBS

July 19-22 - Summer Camp at Lake Brownwood (3rd-5th grades only. RSVP as soon as possible. Scholarships available.)

CLC@FCC

307's book of the month "The Mitten", and Bruno and Mrs. Hurst comes for a visit!





Rev. Remy Tercero
Associate Minister

Serving Together

My incredible, living God I come to a crossroads in my life.

With the start of a new year, how will I make a difference this year?

How may I best receive your love? How may I best spread that love?

These are questions I ponder simply because I am yours. I am your child, your creation, your love lives within me.

May that love be the first thing people recognize when they interact with me.

This upcoming year may I be guided by a purpose and faith that makes no sense to the average person. The purpose may not make sense to them, but to me this purpose is everything.

Thank you for every lesson you have taught me in 2025.

*Pause to reflect on what those lessons may be.

I will confidently push into 2026 with last year's lessons in mind, fully ready to learn more.

May this upcoming year be a year of both growth and gratitude.

I will grow my God.

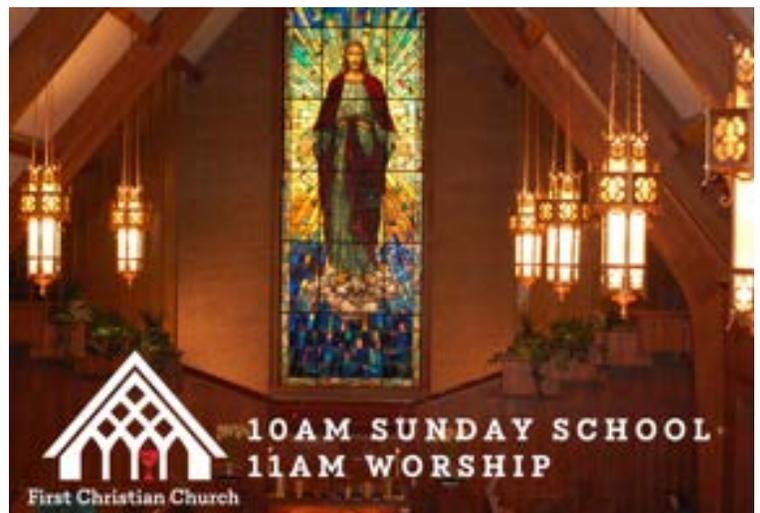
In January of 2027 may I be miles further in my faith journey than I am right now.

Awaken any dormant part of my soul. Now is the time for growth. Now is the time to welcome change.

Help me to leave in 2025 what needs to be left there and bask in the opportunity you present before me with this new year.

Shape me, lead me, and hold me when I need it just like you did last year.

In your incredible name we pray, Amen.



Kids&YouthGrow@FCC



Our Deepest Sympathy

We extend our heartfelt sympathy and prayers to the following family who has recently lost a loved one.

Patricia Gale Stailey, 82, of Midland, passed away on Tuesday, January 13, 2026. Services will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, January 16, 2026 at Manor Park Chapel located in Midland, Texas. Interment will follow at Callisburg Cemetery in Callisburg, Texas on Monday, January 19, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. Please keep the Stailey Family in your prayers.

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
C.C. Petteway
Pat Chambers
Kathy Landrum
Sheila Crudgington
Gary Thompson

Military:

Tyler Brown— *grandson of Lyn Brown*

Families, Friends Beyond FCC

Sharae Buskirk— *past FCC Associate Minister*
Nola Damon— *friend of Jeweli Flores*
Nolan Gandy— *friend of Terry Perry*
Cindy Garcia— *CLC Teacher*
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

01/04 Mary Beth Corbett
01/06 Joy Singleton
01/06 LeeAnna Crudgington
01/10 Ray Berry
01/10 J.R. Bourland
01/12 **Rowen Hattenbach**
01/14 Ed Hall
01/20 Charla Espino
01/21 Elin Perley
01/25 Donna Campbell
01/29 Blake Woods
01/31 Pat Howard
01/31 Beth Crawford

Anniversaries

01/25 Justin & Lauren Disney





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