

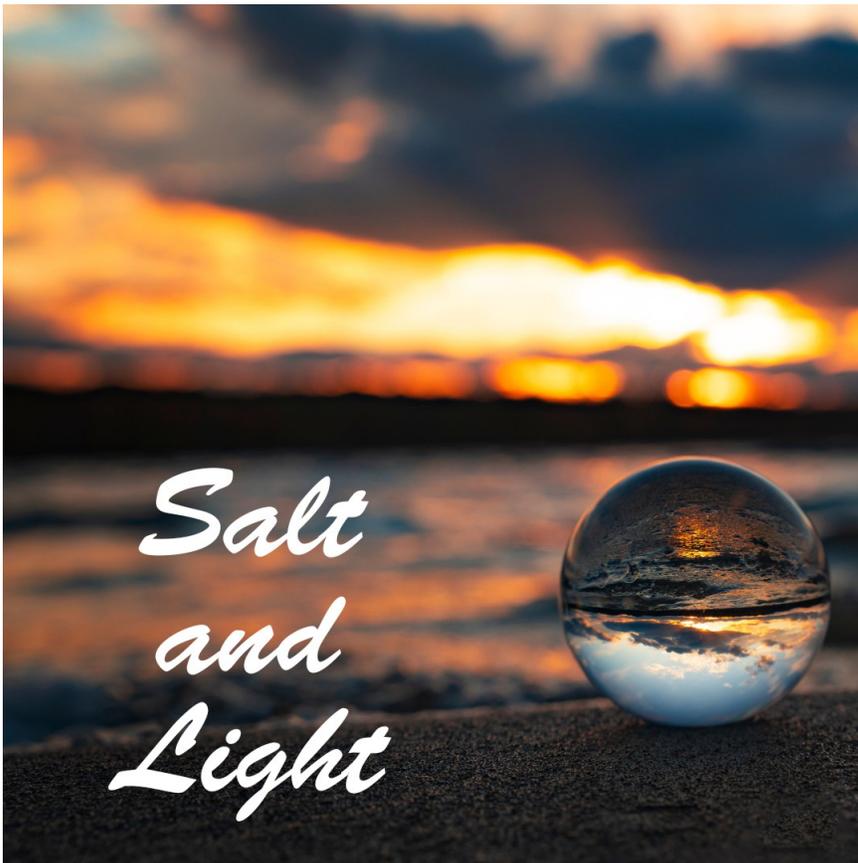


The Builder

First Christian Church
Midland

February 22, 2026

Volume 71 Issue 8



*Salt
and
Light*

In this Issue:

Pastors' Articles
Children & Youth Programs
Recent & Upcoming Events

WEEK AT A GLANCE

SUN
FEB
22

10AM SUNDAY SCHOOL
11AM WORSHIP
2:30PM HANDBELL CHOIR
4:30PM KIDS GROW & YOUTH GROW

TUE
FEB
24

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

WED
FEB
25

7AM MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST
9:30AM FOOD PANTRY
6PM ELDERS MEETING
7PM SANCTUARY CHOIR PRACTICE

SUN
MARCH
1

10AM SUNDAY SCHOOL
11AM WORSHIP
2:30PM HANDBELL CHOIR
4:30PM KIDS GROW & YOUTH GROW

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Rev. David Chisham
Senior Minister

ALREADY SALT AND LIGHT

As we begin our Lenten
journey through the Sermon

on the Mount, Jesus meets us with two sentences that are both simple and startling: “You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world” (Matthew 5:13–16).

Most of us hear those words as encouragement. And they are. But if we listen closely—if we listen through the ears of Matthew’s first readers—they may land less like inspiration and more like holy disorientation.

Matthew is writing to a particular church: a community with deep Jewish roots, now finding itself pushed to the margins. Their devotion to Jesus has brought strain and separation. They are being measured by familiar standards—credibility, respectability, religious correctness—and being told they no longer “count” the way they once did.

In that context, Jesus does not speak to them as a fragile group that needs to lower expectations and simply try to survive. He also doesn’t wait for them to feel confident. Instead, he names them. You ARE salt and light.

He declares what they already are. And that is part of the shock. A marginalized church is being named as two essential elements of life on earth. Salt and light aren’t luxuries. They are basic. They preserve. They reveal. They help life flourish.

And Jesus doesn’t seem too worried about what

they think of themselves. What matters is what God has already declared them to be. That’s a word many of us need to hear.

Because churches, like people, are tempted to measure themselves by the wrong standards. In our culture, “successful” often means bigger, louder, more visible. The greatest compliment we know how to give is “look how much they’ve grown.” And if we’re honest, comparisons creep in easily. We notice what other congregations have: bigger budgets, bigger programs, bigger buildings, bigger platforms.

Somewhere along the way a quiet question forms: Are we enough? Jesus answers that question in advance. And he answers it without appealing to size.

Salt does not exist for itself. It exists to be given away. It disappears into what it touches. It does its work quietly, faithfully, consistently—often unnoticed. And yet without it, something essential is lost.

Light does not draw attention to itself for its own sake. It reveals what matters. It helps others see. It creates possibility. It refuses to disappear, even when darkness presses close.

What a strange calling for a church on the margins. And yet what a clear reminder: God’s people are not defined by their visibility in the world’s eyes, but by their faithfulness to the Kingdom of Heaven. That’s why this passage isn’t a pep talk. It’s a reorientation.

Jesus is teaching his church—and teaching us—that righteousness is not the appearance of religious strength. It is the inside-out formation of a people whose lives bear visible fruit: mercy, integrity, reconciliation, trust, devotion that

doesn't need applause. A community shaped by love in ordinary, persistent ways. And if we pause long enough to look, we can see that fruit among us.

Every week, upwards of 250 preschoolers come through our Children's Learning Center—children hearing about Jesus, learning that they are loved, being shaped by care and kindness and a steady Christian presence. That is light. Not flashy light. Not "headline" light. But the kind of light that forms a life over time.

We also have an incredible outreach through our Disciples Food Pantry. People who are carrying real need are met with real help and real dignity. That is salt. It preserves what is good in a world that can be harsh. It makes life possible for families who are stretched thin.

I'm also about to start the Pastor's Class—preparing individuals for baptism. That is salt and light too. It's the Gospel taking root in real people with real stories, the Kingdom of Heaven drawing close enough to reshape a life.

And many in our congregation have set goals for spiritual growth this year—prayer that becomes more than ritual, Scripture that becomes more than familiarity, practices of generosity and compassion that are not performative but real.

Jesus doesn't seem too worried about what they think of themselves.

That is exactly what Jesus means when he speaks of a righteousness deeper than appearances: not religious mimicry, but inner transformation that yields outward fruit.

So hear Jesus' words again, not as pressure but as promise. "You are the salt of the earth." "You are the light of the world." The question is not whether we are impressive enough. The question is whether we will live into what God has already named us to be.

As we walk through Lent, may God free us from comparison and re-center us in calling. May we measure our life not by the world's standards, but by Jesus' declaration. And may we keep becoming what God has already said we are: salt for this earth, and light for this world.

See you at the Table,

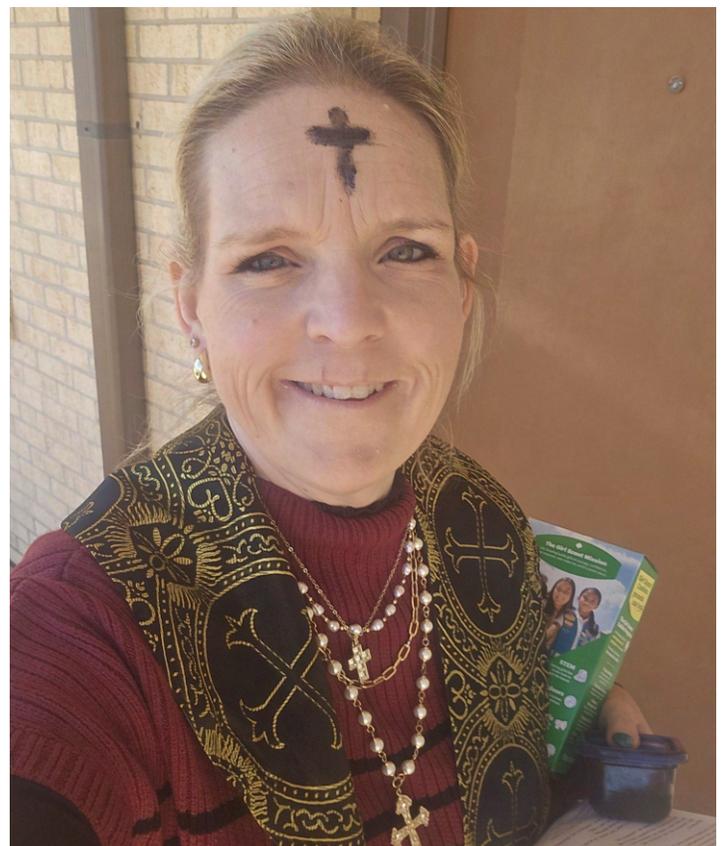
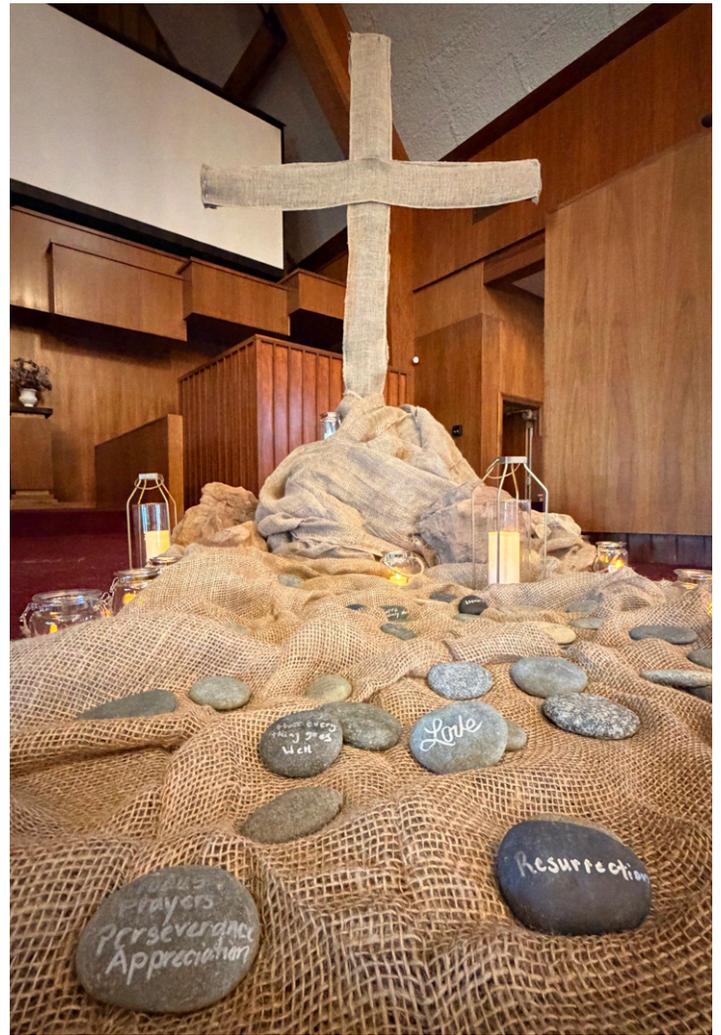
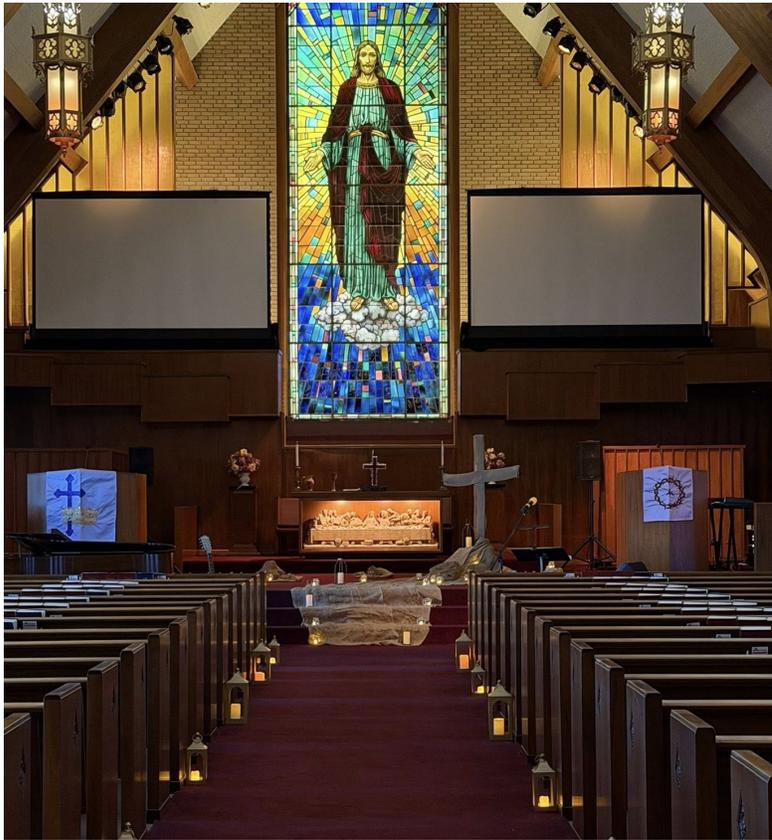




This past week at CLC@FCC



Ash Wednesday



KidsGrow@FCC

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

PreK will hear the story about Jesus calming the storm. (Matt. 8)

Children (Kinder - 5th grade) will begin the series from the Grow Curriculum called "GLOW" for Lent/Easter.

Children's Church (Sundays during Worship)

PreK will hear about "A Captain's Faith."

Children (Kinder - 3rd grade) will hear about Simeon & Anna Meeting Baby Jesus (Lent 1) from Luke 2.

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

GLOW Week 1 - Come glow in the dark with us as we learn about the Lord's light shining in the darkness!

Upcoming:

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.)



Daylight Saving Time
March 8, 2026
Set your clocks
AHEAD 1 HOUR!

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME
BEGINS

The graphic features a large clock face with a pink border. The clock hands are positioned at approximately 1:50. A pink arrow points to the right, indicating the time shift. The background is decorated with pink cherry blossoms at the top and yellow daffodils and purple tulips at the bottom.

Prayer List

Those in need of prayer:

Diane Faulkner
Kathe Hepher
Maria & Vinson Cooper
Sandy Faulkner
Bill Boyd
Joy Singleton
Judy Hunnicutt
Mike Harrison
Marty Wallace
Bruce Stanley
Chris Huff
Betty Couch
Cinnamon Stanford
Abraham Ortega
Kaylene Burgard
Nancy Stanley
Fred Yates
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**

Sharon Thorton—*mom of Dainel Thorton*
Kylea Stone—*friend of CLC*
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

02/01 Bill Boyd
02/04 Rachel James
02/06 Chris Huff
02/10 Sandra Schnable
02/11 Netha Aaron
02/12 Sharon Boyd
02/12 David Chisham
02/13 Chaney Coffman
02/13 Katie Coffman
02/13 **Abraham Ortega**
02/17 Lyn Brown
02/18 Gaylon Howard Sr
02/23 Ann Minter
02/23 **Patton Dishron**
02/25 Mollie Wright
02/25 **Daniel Ortega**
02/26 Garrett Stephenson
02/26 Autumn Crudgington
02/27 Jeweli Flores
02/28 Becky Armour
02/29 Beverly Drummond

Anniversaries

02/09 Jack & Troy Campbell
02/20 Dan O'Grady & Anne Shaunesy

Names in **red** are youth and children



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Love God and everyone.

Grow as faithful believers.

Serve together.

