



# The Builder

## First Christian Church

*Midland*

May 10, 2026

Volume 71 Issue 21



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### WEEK AT A GLANCE

**SUN  
MAY  
10** MOTHER'S DAY  
CHILD DEDICATION  
10AM SUNDAY SCHOOL  
11AM WORSHIP

**TUE  
MAY  
12** 9:30AM CONCERNS COOKIE DELIVERY  
7PM SCOUTING BOYS TROOP 175

**WED  
MAY  
13** 7AM MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST  
9:30AM FOOD PANTRY  
7PM CHOIR PRACTICE

**THUR  
MAY  
14** 11:30AM DISCIPLE WOMENS  
LUNCHEON & BIBLE STUDY

**SUN  
MAY  
17** 10AM SUNDAY SCHOOL  
11AM WORSHIP

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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Rev. David Chisham  
Senior Minister

### A MOTHER TO ME ALSO

Tucked away near the end of Epistle to the Romans, in a chapter most of us read

quickly because of its long list of names, is a quiet and beautiful line. Paul the Apostle writes, “Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord; and greet his mother—a mother to me also.”

We don’t know her name. She is simply “the mother of Rufus.” She never delivers a sermon, never leads a mission journey, never authors a letter that will be read for centuries. And yet, in this brief mention, we are given a glimpse into something essential about the life of the early church—and about the heart of Paul himself. It is easy to imagine Paul as fiercely independent: traveling from city to city, preaching boldly, enduring hardship, planting churches, and moving on. There is truth in that picture. But this small verse reminds us that it is not the whole story. Paul was not a solitary figure, untouched by the need for care or companionship. He allowed himself to be known. He received hospitality. He accepted love.

And somewhere along the way, in the life of the Roman church, he encountered a woman who cared for him in such a way that he could only describe her as “a mother to me.”

What might that have looked like? We can only imagine. Perhaps she welcomed him into her home when he was weary. Perhaps she made sure he was fed, rested, and strengthened for the work ahead. Perhaps she listened, encouraged, and reminded him that he was not alone. However it happened, her care made an impression deep

enough that Paul carried it with him—and honored it in Scripture.

On this Mother’s Day, I find myself especially grateful for that unnamed woman, because she helps us see that motherhood in the life of the church is not limited to biology. It is a way of being with one another—a posture of care, attentiveness, and love that creates space for others to flourish.

I have experienced that kind of care in every church I have been privileged to serve. There have been women who, in quiet and often unseen ways, have offered encouragement, support, and kindness that has sustained me more than they probably realize. Like Paul, I have found myself the recipient of a kind of “mothering” that is rooted not in obligation, but in grace.

I also think of my own mother, Gertie Chisham. She was so proud when I entered the ministry. I have to believe that part of her joy came from knowing that this calling would place me in communities shaped by relationships of love and mutual dependence. Ministry, at its best, is not simply about preaching or leadership—it is about belonging. It is about being woven into a network of care where we give and receive in equal measure.

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That is what we see in Romans 16. The chapter is not just a list of names; it is a portrait of a community. People are known. They are remembered. Their contributions matter. Their relationships matter. And right there in the middle of it is a woman whose quiet, faithful care became part of the story of the Gospel.

So today, I want to say thank you—to the women of this congregation who have cared for and about me. Your kindness, your attentiveness, your willingness to show up in both ordinary and meaningful ways—these are gifts I do not take lightly. You embody something of the love of Christ in ways that are deeply personal and profoundly important.

And I want to offer an encouragement to all of us as a church family: let us make space in our lives for these kinds of relationships.

In a world that often prizes independence and self-sufficiency, the church is called to something different. We are called to be a people who need

one another—and who are not afraid to say so. We are called to offer care and to receive it. We are called to notice one another, to nurture one another, and to build one another up in love. There are “Rufuses” among us, and there are “mothers” among us—some named, some unnamed. When we lean into those relationships, we discover something rich and sustaining. We discover that the life of faith is not a solo journey, but a shared one.

And in that shared life, we may find—sometimes unexpectedly—that we have been given mothers in the faith who help us become who God is calling us to be.

See you at the Table



# Dedication Of Children

## May 10, 2026

...That I May Walk With God In The Light Of Life. Ps 56:13



11am  
Worship

Please call Tamara  
at church office  
if you would like to  
participate.



Rev. Remy Tercero  
Associate Minister

Prayer for the Week  
Mother's Day

Our great God up above we  
come to you today to lift up  
the silent strength and steady

love of mothers.

They are strong when no one else is. They are  
strong on their best days and even stronger on  
their worst days.

We are thankful for their sacrifice, and we honor  
them this week as we should every week.

We celebrate the wisdom, patience and grace they  
carry with them every day.

May their lives be filled with the same love they  
present towards others.

We honor the courage it takes to give so much of  
oneself to nurture us and then one day let us go.

We celebrate their healing tenderness.

May every mother know that they are appreciated  
beyond belief, both natural mothers, adopted  
mothers and the symbolic mothers, for all that  
they do matters so much.

Thank you for their consistent love, and may their  
future be full of abundant love moving forward.

In your name we pray, Amen.



## Our Deepest Sympathy

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

Michael (Mike) Harrison passed away on April 30, 2026.

Celebration of life will be held for Mike Harrison on

May 12, 2026 at 11am at

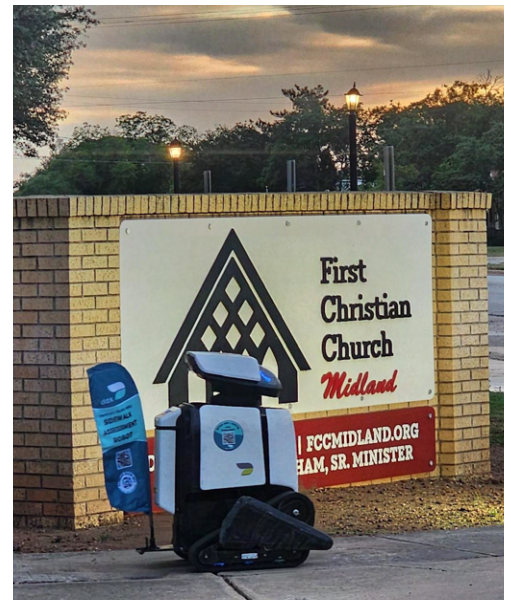
First Christian Church, Midland, T.X.

Please keep the Harrison family in your prayers.

# Pastors Class



## We had a visitor DAX at FCC & CLC



THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND FACULTY OF  
AUSTIN PRESBYTERIAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

are pleased to announce that

*Lauren Marie Copeland Disney*

has completed the requirements for the

**Master of Arts in Youth Ministry**

degree from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

Sunday, the seventeenth day of May, two thousand  
and twenty-six at half-past two in the afternoon

University Presbyterian Church  
2203 San Antonio Street  
Austin, Texas 78705

Livestream the ceremony at: [www.austinseminary.edu/livestream](http://www.austinseminary.edu/livestream)

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

Reverend Dr. Renita J. Weems  
Chief Academic Officer and Dean  
Gammon Theological Seminary



Shout out to the staff at First Christian Church! They prepared a delicious teacher appreciation lunch for the teachers and staff at the Children's Learning Center. It was so good and very much appreciated! Thank you very much! Blessings to you all!



## Prayer List

Those in need of prayer:

Leona Bowman  
Lorenzo Espino  
Robby Boyd  
Ronny Aaron  
Kathe Hepher  
Maria & Vinson Cooper  
Sandy Faulkner  
Bill Boyd  
Judy Hunnicutt  
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

Albert Valero—*husband of Tere Valero*  
Sharon Thornton—*mom of Daniel Thornton*  
Kylea Slone—*friend of CLC*  
Nolan Gandy—*friend of Terry Perry*

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*  
J.M. Moore — *father of Kathy Landrum*  
Oscar Garcia — *brother of Amparo Olguin*

## Birthdays

Names in **red** are youth and children

05/01 Betty Couch  
05/01 Julie Lastoka  
05/02 Jed Heard  
05/02 Cierra Stanford  
05/05 John Espino  
05/07 Gwyn Hill  
05/09 Barbara Estes  
05/10 Linda Hyatt  
05/15 Ernie Gilkerson  
05/18 **James Coffman**  
05/19 Jill Wright  
05/21 **Grayson Stanley**  
05/23 Sandra Wills  
05/27 Brenda Morris  
05/27 **Chloe Wells**  
05/27 Amber Hopper  
05/28 **Greyson Flores**  
05/28 Justin Disney  
05/31 Carol Thompson

## Anniversaries

05/01 Jessica Garrett Southern &  
Kevin Southern  
05/07 Marty & Sherry Wallace  
05/17 J.R. & Amanda Bourland  
05/19 Tom & Meta Jones



1301 W. Louisiana Ave.  
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# Vacation Bible School

June 22nd-25th  
5:30-8pm

Age 3 yrs old by June 1-completion of 5<sup>th</sup> grade

First Christian Church  
1301 West Louisiana

**WHAT'S  
COOKIN'?**

Registration Dates  
FCC Kids April 26th  
CLC Kids May 3rd  
Open to Public May 10th



register with QR code