



The Builder

First Christian Church
Midland

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Volume 71 Issue 22

SUMMER GRACE



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7AM MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST
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7PM CHOIR PRACTICE

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11AM WORSHIP

CONTACT INFORMATION:

432-682-2541

1301 W LOUISIANA AVE., MIDLAND, TX 79701

FCCMIDLAND.ORG

OFFICE1@FCCMIDLAND.ORG



Rev. David Chisham
Senior Minister

SUMMER GRACE

As another school year comes to a close, I'm reminded how deeply our

lives are shaped by seasons. You can feel it everywhere right now. Backpacks are being emptied out. Calendars are losing some of their crowded look. Teachers are catching their breath. Parents are trying to figure out how summer schedules will somehow both slow down and become more complicated. Students are already hearing that familiar sound of freedom as the final bell approaches.

Even for those of us no longer tied directly to the school calendar, the end of May and beginning of June still carries a particular rhythm. There is relief. There is anticipation. There is exhaustion. There is possibility.

This time of year is also filled with celebrations and milestones. Graduations remind us that hard work, perseverance, and growth matter. We celebrate students moving from one chapter of life into another, families marking important accomplishments, and people stepping into new opportunities and callings. Here at the church, we are especially proud to celebrate Lauren Disney, our Youth Minister, as she completes her Master's Degree in Youth Ministry. What a blessing it is to see people continue growing in wisdom, faith, and service. Achievements like these deserve to be recognized and celebrated together.

I remember that feeling vividly from my own school days. Final exams would end, papers would be turned in, and suddenly the pressure

sitting quietly on my shoulders for months would begin to lift. Summer felt almost holy in those moments—not because everything stopped, but because life widened again. There was finally room to breathe.

That desire for rest and renewal is woven deeply into creation itself. In Genesis, after the work of creation, God rests. Not because God was incapable of continuing, but because rest is part of the goodness of life. Human beings were never created to live in a constant state of hurry and productivity. We need pauses. We need renewal. We need moments when we remember that our value does not come from our output.

That can be difficult to remember in our culture. Even summer has a way of becoming crowded. Vacations become tightly scheduled productions. Kids bounce from one activity to another. Adults carry work stress with them through phones and laptops. Sometimes we arrive at August needing recovery from June and July.

So perhaps part of the invitation of this season is not simply to “stay busy differently,” but to practice rest. Real rest. The kind that reconnects us to God, to one another, and even to ourselves. For some people, that may mean travel and adventure. For others, quiet evenings on the porch after the heat begins to fade. Maybe it means family cookouts, afternoons in the pool,

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long conversations, reading for pleasure, or simply sleeping a little later than usual. These things may seem ordinary, but ordinary joys are often where God quietly nourishes us.

Jesus himself understood the need for stepping away. In the Gospels, there are moments when Jesus tells the disciples to come away and rest for a while. Ministry mattered and people's needs mattered, but rest mattered too. Faithfulness is not measured only by how exhausted we become. At the same time, summer is also a season of transition. Graduates are stepping into new chapters of life. Children are growing older before our eyes. Families are preparing for camps, vacations, internships, new schools, and changing routines. Some transitions are exciting. Others are bittersweet. Some carry anxiety about what comes next.

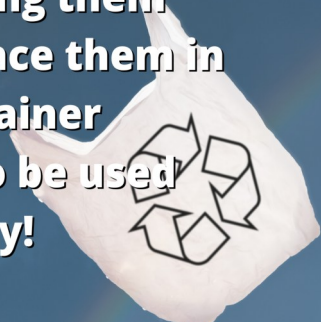
In moments like these, I'm grateful for the steady reminder that God goes with us into every season. The God who walked beside us through busy schedules, long school days, difficult semesters, and demanding workweeks is the same God who walks beside us into summer's changing rhythms. God's presence is not limited to sanctuaries and schedules. Sometimes we encounter grace around picnic tables, on road trips, under wide West Texas sunsets, or during unhurried conversations with people we love.

Here at the church, some things will slow down a bit during the summer months, but ministry certainly does not stop. Vacation Bible School, church camps, youth activities, fellowship gatherings, and weekly worship will continue shaping our life together. Summer gives us a chance to reconnect in different ways and to welcome moments of joy and community that the busyness of the school year sometimes crowds out.

So as this new season begins, I hope you find moments to breathe deeply. I hope you find laughter, renewal, and rest. I hope you make memories with people you love. And I hope that somewhere in the midst of the heat, travel, cookouts, and changing schedules, you experience the quiet grace of God reminding you that life is more than deadlines and obligations. See you at the Table — and maybe also by the pool.



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!



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





Rev. Remy Tercero
Associate Minister

Prayer for the Week
End of the School Year

Our great God up above,

As this school year comes to a close, we pause with grateful hearts for every lesson learned, every challenge overcome, and every moment of growth You have provided.

Thank You for sustaining students, educators, administrators, and families through each day with wisdom, strength, and grace.

We pray encouragement over every student stepping into a new season. Fill them with confidence for the future, courage to pursue their purpose, and peace in moments of uncertainty. Remind them that their value is not measured by grades or achievements, but by the love You have for them.

May they carry forward the knowledge, friendships, and character built this year into all that lies ahead.

We also lift up every teacher and school staff member. Renew their energy and restore their spirits after months of faithful work and dedication.

Let them see the lasting impact they have made in the lives of their students. Bless them with rest, joy, and fresh vision for the future.

Lord, as doors close on this school year, we trust You for the opportunities ahead. May the future be filled with hope, growth, and new beginnings.

Guide the next generation to walk in wisdom, compassion, and faith, knowing You are leading them every step of the way.

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

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

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

DISCIPLES FOOD PANTRY IS IN NEED OF CANNED MEAT.

PLEASE PLACE ALL DONATIONS IN THE RED BUCKETS IN THE NARTHEX.

This Week At CLC Butterfly Release!





Lauren Disney
Youth Director

“Let us run with endurance the race that God has set before us.” Hebrews 12:1“

It still hasn't fully set in that my current grad school experience is coming to an end this Sunday, May 17th, when I will graduate from Austin Presbyterian Seminary with my Master of Arts in Youth Ministry degree. I wanted to take a few moments to share my gratitude and a few reflections with our congregation.

Most people aren't aware that I'm a first-generation college student, as my dad dropped out of school and eventually earned his GED, and my mom left college after a year to marry him. Our lives faced many financial challenges when I was growing up, but as a young adult, I realized that pursuing higher education opens many doors. Most importantly, my hope is to inspire my daughter and all of our youth to persevere and pursue dreams they may think are impossible. When you commit plans to God and let go of any fears, life can change in an awesome way! That's why my focus verse for the year is from Hebrews 12:1 – *Let us run with endurance the race that God has set before us.* Someone actually gave me a plaque that has it on there when we moved to Midland (19 years ago), and it's reminded me to pray over everything, face obstacles with courage, and don't give up!

This educational journey hasn't always been easy, and I've definitely had my fair share of obstacles along the way. I remember the joy of graduating for the first time when I earned my Associate's degree from Midland College in 2009. Then I had a surprise pregnancy with my daughter while pursuing my bachelor's degree, and she was only a

few months old when I graduated from UTPB in 2011. In this most recent chapter, my husband and I have had to juggle a LOT of travel for his work and my in-person classes in Austin, while making sure our daughter has all her needs met. Fortunately, having a tribe of supportive family, friends, and church members has made all the difference, and I'm so grateful for everyone's support!

**“Let us run with endurance the race that God has set before us.”
Hebrews 12:1“**

But the fun and work have just begun. Our youth group is growing, and it's such a blessing to meet with so many joyful faces each week. I'm passionate about teaching them to love God and their neighbors, put in the effort to do well in school, and to serve God and our community as representatives of the Body of Christ. Together, we'll achieve great things! And on that closing note, if you've ever thought it might be neat to share your gifts, talents, and experiences with our youth group, I'm always looking for great adult volunteers!

Thank you again for your tremendous love & support!

God bless and CARPE DIEM!

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.
Midland, TX 79701
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Vacation Bible School

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

Age 3 yrs old by June 1-completion of 5th grade

First Christian Church
1301 West Louisiana

WHAT'S COOKIN'?



register with QR code