



# The Builder

## First Christian Church

*Midland*

September 13, 2027

Volume 71 Issue 36



## In this Issue:

Pastors' Articles  
Recent & Upcoming Events  
Pantry Volunteers Needed

### WEEK AT A GLANCE

**SUN**  
**SEPT**  
**13**

10AM SUNDAY SCHOOL  
11AM WORSHIP  
12PM FALL LUNCHEON & FESTIVAL

**TUE**  
**SEPT**  
**15**

6:30PM CUB SCOUT PACK 67  
GRADES K-5TH  
7:30PM BOYS SCOUT TROOP 175  
6<sup>TH</sup> -12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

**WED**  
**SEPT**  
**16**

7AM MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST  
9:30AM FOOD PANTRY  
7PM CHOIR

**SUN**  
**SEPT**  
**20**

10AM SUNDAY SCHOOL  
11AM WORSHIP  
4:30PM CHILDREN & YOUTH  
EVENING PROGRAM

#### CONTACT INFORMATION:

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FCCMIDLAND.ORG





Rev. David Chisham  
Senior Minister

### The Sacred Movement of Autumn

There is something about autumn that makes us aware of time.

The days grow shorter. The air changes. Fields that were green move toward harvest. Leaves turn, fall, and remind us that another year is passing. Perhaps it should not surprise us, then, that some of the most important days on Israel's sacred calendar arrived at this time of year. Most Christians know at least something about Passover. We know that Jesus went to Jerusalem for Passover and that the Last Supper and the story of his death are inseparable from it. But we are often much less familiar with the great holy days that came in the autumn.

They arrived together in the seventh month of the Jewish calendar, roughly September and October on ours. And taken together, they created a remarkable spiritual rhythm: a summons to wake up and remember, a time to repent and be reconciled, and finally a celebration of God's abundant provision.

It began on the first day of the month with a sacred assembly marked by the sounding of trumpets (Leviticus 23:23–25). The Bible calls it a day of “complete rest” and “a holy convocation commemorated with trumpet blasts.” In later Jewish tradition, this became Rosh Hashanah, the beginning of the new year.

The blast of the trumpet was a summons. Pay attention. Remember who you are. Remember

whose you are. Another year has come. Stand before God and take stock of your life.

Ten days later came the most solemn day of the year: the Day of Atonement, Yom Kippur.

Leviticus 16 describes the rituals in detail. The high priest entered the Holy of Holies, sacrifices were offered, sins were confessed, and Israel sought cleansing before God. It was a day for the people to humble themselves and confront honestly everything that had accumulated

**Wake up. Come clean.  
Rejoice.**

between themselves, one another, and God. Christians sometimes encounter the Day of Atonement primarily as background for understanding the cross, especially in the book of Hebrews. That is important. But before we turn Yom Kippur into a Christian theological concept, it is worth hearing it within Israel's own rhythm of life.

The trumpet has sounded. The people have awakened. Now comes the hard work of repentance, forgiveness, cleansing, and beginning again.

And then, just five days later, something remarkable happens.

They have a party.

The Feast of Booths, or Sukkot, was one of Israel's great harvest festivals. For seven days the people lived in temporary shelters made from

branches, remembering how their ancestors had depended upon God in the wilderness. At the same time, they celebrated the harvest God had just provided. Deuteronomy tells them to eat, rejoice, and include everyone in the celebration—including the stranger, the orphan, and the widow.

“You shall surely celebrate,” God tells them (Deuteronomy 16:15).

That may be the part of the sequence we have most thoroughly lost.

Trumpets. Atonement. Booths.

Wake up. Come clean. Rejoice.

This was part of the sacred rhythm that formed the Jewish people, and it was part of the world that formed Jesus.

The Gospel of John even tells us about Jesus attending the Feast of Booths in Jerusalem. In John 7, as the festival reaches its climax, Jesus stands and cries out, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink.” Soon afterward, he declares, “I am the light of the world.”

Those words were not spoken in a vacuum. Jesus spoke them among people celebrating God’s provision, remembering the wilderness, giving thanks for the harvest, and praying for God’s continued blessing. The festivals were part of the

language through which Israel understood God—and therefore part of the language through which Jesus proclaimed the Kingdom of God.

Perhaps these ancient autumn holy days have something to teach Christians who have largely forgotten them.

Faith needs moments when the trumpet sounds and we pay attention again. It needs honest seasons when we examine ourselves, confess what has gone wrong, seek forgiveness, and repair what has been broken.

But repentance is not the destination. The movement of these holy days is ultimately toward joy: gathering around tables, remembering God’s faithfulness, sharing abundance with neighbors, and celebrating the God who provided for people in the wilderness and still provides today.

As autumn arrives and another year begins to turn, perhaps Israel’s ancient calendar can remind us of a sacred rhythm we still need: Wake up.

Come clean.

And then, by the grace of God, rejoice.



# Pantry Volunteers Needed



Rev. Remy Tercero  
Associate Minister

### Season of Growth

Fall is a beautiful reminder that growth does not always look the way we expect it to.

When we think about growth, we often picture something visible like a plant stretching toward the sunlight, a tree becoming taller, or a garden producing a harvest. But nature teaches us that some of the most important growth happens quietly, beneath the surface.

As autumn arrives, many trees begin to release their leaves. To us, it may look like something is being lost. Yet beneath the soil, roots remain. The tree is preparing itself for the months ahead. What appears to be a season of slowing down is actually a season of preparation.

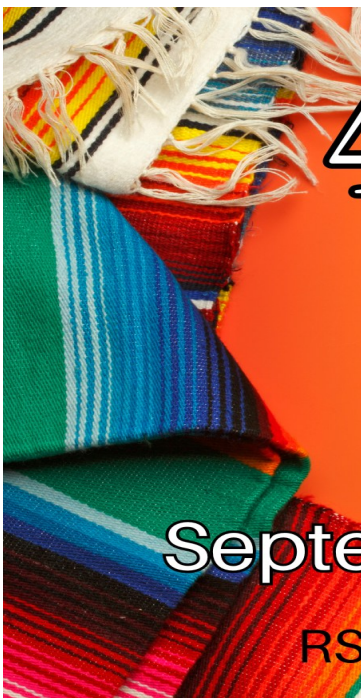
Our spiritual lives can be much the same. There are seasons when we can clearly see God moving in our lives.

We experience answered prayers, exciting opportunities, renewed faith, and moments when everything seems to be falling into place. Those seasons are wonderful, and we should celebrate them.

But there are also quieter seasons. There may be times when our prayers seem unanswered, when we don't understand what God is doing, or when our circumstances seem to be changing faster than we can keep up. We may wonder if we are growing at all.

**God can be doing some of His deepest work in those quiet places.**

Just as a tree's roots continue to grow even when its branches are bare, God can be strengthening our faith even when we cannot see immediate results. Stay patient and trust that as long as you are putting the work in, growth is happening.



# 40+ Fellowship Get Together

## La Bodega

September 19th • 6:30–8:30 PM

RSVP Lauren Disney • 432-664-4674



Lauren Disney  
Youth Director

### There is a Season for Everything

One of my all-time favorite bible verses is Ecclesiastes 3:1, *"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the Heavens."* Then there is my all-time favorite song based on this biblical chapter, which was written by Peter Seeger and later performed by The Byrds in the late 1960's, known as *"Turn, Turn, Turn."*

My parents taught me from a young age that life is full of changes, and that God has a purpose and timing for everything. In my teenage years, I used to listen to records on the weekends with my dad and most of the words reflected in this song have always deeply resonated with me:

*"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven:*

*A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, a time to reap;*

*A time to kill, and a time to heal;*

*A time to laugh; a time to weep;*

*A time to build up; a time to break down;*

*A time to dance, a time to mourn;*

*A time to love, and a time to hate;*

*A time of war, and a time of peace;*

*A time to cast away stones, a time to gather stones together;*

*A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, a time of peace.*

*A time to embrace, a time to refrain from embracing;*

*A time to gain, and a time to lose; a time to rend, a time to sew;*

*A time to keep silent, and a time to speak;*

*A time for peace, I swear it's not too late.*

*To Everything, Turn, Turn, Turn; There is a Season, Turn, Turn, Turn. And a time to every purpose under Heaven."*

In my adult years and especially since I started working in ministry, I feel like I have seen so many of these things happen – in our world, on the home front, and within our congregation. I have been learning to embrace the tough times and appreciate that they are mostly evolving in a short season; sometimes in heartache, but always full of opportunities for spiritual and personal growth. When we lean on one another, offer prayers and support, take meals, or just sit and listen to those who are struggling, it makes the weight of life a little less heavy.

I want to take a moment to thank our staff and the congregation again for always supporting me, especially as I was finishing my Seminary journey earlier this year. Just like the leaves change and fly away in the Fall, and new life emerges among God's creatures in the Spring, I continue to pray that we will always gather stones together, embrace one another, and continue sharing hope and God's peace along the journey.

God Bless and Carpe

diem,



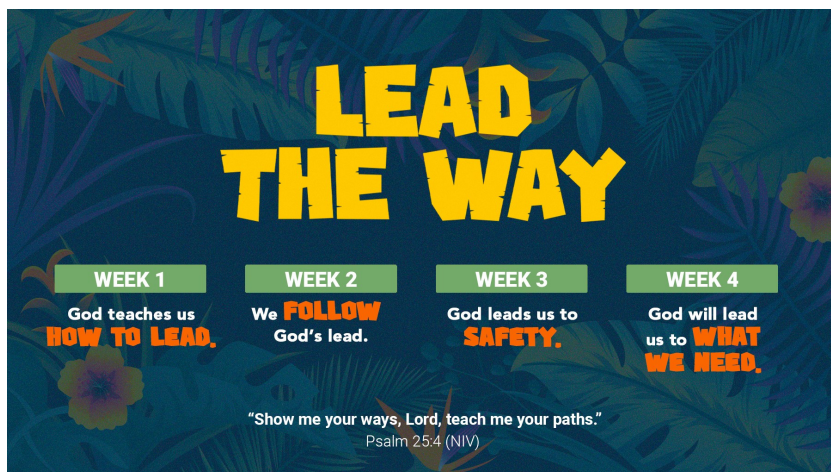
## GROWKIDS@FCC

FCC Kids just finished the series called “In the Beginning” over the Creation from the book of Genesis. Apparently, the biggest thing they took away is that God rested on the 7th day. Haha!

This Sunday, we will begin a new series called “Lead the Way.” It is a 4-week study by Grow curriculum over the book of Exodus: The story of Moses, and how the Children of Israel were freed from slavery. Come check it out!

We have cancelled our evening meeting on the 13th due to the Fall Festival the Church is putting on after service. Please plan to come and bring your friends and neighbors! See you there!

Blessings,  
Tamara



## CLC@FCC

Welcome Back CLC Kids!





## Prayer List

Those in need of prayer:

Lily Disney  
Craig Carnahan  
Sherry Ladd  
Tommy Hawkins  
Kathe Hepfer  
Tere Valero  
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  
Cinnimon Stanford  
Abraham Ortega  
Kaylene Burgard  
Nancy Stanley  
Fred Yates  
Pat Marshall  
Ginny Estes  
Mary Beth Corbett  
Linda Taylor  
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

Nieta Stephenson—  
*mother of Mike Stephenson & Michele Hepfer*  
Pamela Flores—*sister of Jeweli Flores*  
Nickie Oppermann—*Friend of Burgards*  
Family of Ed Scott  
Isacc Bailey & Victims of June 12th shootings  
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*  
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

09/02 Kathy Landrum  
09/05 Lauren Disney  
09/06 Bob Garrett  
09/08 Hunter Kilborn  
09/17 Kathy Cromwell  
09/18 Justin Stephenson  
09/20 Janice Ford  
09/21 Victoria Gilkerson  
09/21 Patricia Marshall  
09/23 Sandy Faulkner  
09/26 Courtney Gordon  
09/29 Hill Glover  
09/30 Kaylene Burgard

## Anniversaries

09/01 Bruce & Nancy Stanley



1301 W. Louisiana Ave.

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[www.fccmidland.org](http://www.fccmidland.org)

# First Christian Church Midland

## FALL FEST September 13, 2026

Horse  
Rides!

Face  
Painting!

Fun  
Games!

Petting  
Zoo!

Balloon  
Animals!

Food and  
Treats!

**Sunday School:** 10am  
**Worship Service:** 11am  
**Lunch and Festival:**  
immediately following in  
Gym ~12:00-2:30pm  
**1301 W. Louisiana Ave.**

