



The Builder

First Christian Church

Midland

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Volume 71 Issue 37



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WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

**TUE
SEPT
22**

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

**WED
SEPT
23**

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

**SUN
SEPT
27**

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

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FCCMIDLAND.ORG





Rev. David Chisham
Senior Minister

Older Than I Used to Be.
Younger Than I Thought.

When I was a boy, old people
had always been old. As the

youngest in my family, I was surrounded by people who had a considerable head start. My earliest memories of my parents place them in early middle age. My grandmother, who shared our family home for ten years, was in her eighties and nineties, and I couldn't imagine her as a young woman. As far as I knew, she had entered the world with gray hair and bad knees.

Their lives seemed settled, as though they had become whoever they were going to become and now simply had to keep being that person. Childhood was full of changes, and old age, I assumed, was when things finally stopped changing.

Being a pastor has thoroughly corrected that assumption. Walking alongside people as they age has given me a front-row seat to everything my younger self missed: retirement changes the shape of a day, a diagnosis rearranges the calendar, a move changes the meaning of home, and a spouse's death changes the sound of the house. Meanwhile, bodies introduce new limitations without consulting the people who inhabit them. "Getting old is not for the faint of heart," people tell me, and increasingly I understand that this is less a folksy saying than a blunt, eyewitness report.

Now that I'm into middle age—a category whose upper boundary I reserve the right to revise—I'm beginning to think about retirement, although thinking about it and actually retiring are

different things, so please don't form a search committee. I've been putting money into a pension plan, but after watching so many people navigate unforeseen circumstances, I'm reluctant to imagine a smooth glide toward a perfectly scheduled landing. I can make a flight plan, but I cannot reserve the weather.

God never decided that
younger people were more
interesting to hang with.

That uncertainty is not limited to retirement. It is part of the larger challenge of growing older: we make plans while knowing that life will eventually revise them. James offers a similar caution to people confidently announcing what they will do next year, reminding them to make room for "If the Lord wills" (James 4:15). Planning has its place, and humility belongs beside it, because a faithful life requires learning how to live when the itinerary changes.

The Bible gives us few detailed portraits of what such a life looks like, but one of its briefest portraits is also one of its most suggestive. I think of Enoch, whose story in the early chapters of Genesis is both brief and wonderfully mysterious. He lived 365 years—which would require a very patient pension administrator—and "walked with God"; then he was no more, because God took him. We might wish for more details, but the description we receive is a beautiful one: his life was a long companionship with God. God never decided that younger people were more interesting to hang with.

That image helps me understand aging not simply as a series of losses or adjustments, but as a changing way of walking with God. The pace may slow, the route may narrow, and we may need help from people who walk beside us. We learn to receive help, grieve losses, discover different ways to serve, and trust God with questions we once thought we had answered. There is spiritual growing yet to do, although we might reasonably wish some of the lessons came with fewer appointments with doctors and specialists.

Because the walk changes, our relationships and communities must change with it. Withdrawing can become tempting, especially when getting out is complicated, hearing conversations takes effort, and we worry about slowing everyone down. But you are worth the extra time, and your presence matters without your having to chair a committee or carry a casserole. Come when you can, accept a ride, and give yourself permission to leave early; when coming is no longer possible, the responsibility belongs to the rest of us to keep showing up. Companionship is not a favor we offer only to those who can keep pace; it is part of how we walk together.

That responsibility becomes especially clear when aging brings profound physical decline or advanced dementia. Families and caregivers may find themselves carrying grief, exhaustion, and responsibilities that seldom take a day off. The person who once walked beside others may now need nearly constant support, and the people providing that support need companions of their

own. No cheerful sentence makes that easy, but God's love reaches us when memory fails, words disappear, and familiar faces become strangers. That love does not depend on our ability to recognize or explain it, and caregivers need to experience it through companionship, practical help, and opportunities to rest. Love needs more than one pair of hands.

I wish I could ask my grandmother about all the changes unfolding behind what I thought was a settled life, because I suspect she would have plenty to tell me. In her lifetime she saw the rise of the automobile, invention of powered flight, both World Wars, the Great Depression, the rise of the atomic age, and man walking on the moon, though I don't remember whether or not she figured out how to run the microwave oven—I think she left that device to others. I'm still learning what she already knew: there is more living ahead than we can plan for, and we will need both God and one another along the way. Enoch's walk with God was not described by its destination or its efficiency, but by its companionship. Whatever our age, and whatever our pace, there is still a walk to share.

See you at the Table,



Pantry Volunteers Needed!

FCC Fall Festival 2026





Birth Announcement



Amelia Belle Carnett

Born 9/4. 10:44 pm

7 lbs 13 oz

*It's a
girl*

**Proud parents are
Sarah and Josh Carnett!
Proud grandparents are
Tom and Meta Jones!**

Congratulations to the Carnett Family!

**We pray for God's blessings upon the
newest member of the Family.**





Rev. Remy Tercero
Associate Minister

Aging is a journey none of us takes alone. With each passing year, we experience changes, some joyful, some difficult, and many unexpected.

Our bodies may slow down, our roles may change, and the world around us may look different than it once did. Yet our worth in the eyes of God never changes.

Growing older does not mean becoming less useful or less significant. God continues to give each of us opportunities to love, serve, encourage, pray, and share the wisdom gathered along the way.

Faith can become especially precious as we age. The experiences of a lifetime can teach us to recognize God's presence not only in moments of celebration, but also in seasons of uncertainty and loss. We may look back and see prayers that were answered in unexpected ways, people God placed in our path, and moments when His strength carried us when our own strength was not enough.

At the same time, aging can bring challenges that deserve compassion. Grief, loneliness, health concerns, changing abilities, and the loss of independence can make some seasons difficult. Faith does not require us to pretend that these things are easy. Instead, faith gives us permission to bring our honest hearts to God.

We can bring our fears, our questions, our tears, and our hopes, trusting that God remains near. And as a church family, we have an important role to play. Older adults are not simply people we care for; they are people who enrich the life of the whole congregation.

Their stories matter. Their prayers matter. Their presence matters. The lessons they have learned, the faith they have carried, and the love they have given are gifts to generations that follow.

Perhaps one of the most beautiful things about growing older in faith is discovering that God's work in our lives is never finished. There is always another prayer to pray, another person to encourage, another story to share, another kindness to offer.

May we learn to see aging not merely as a process of growing older, but as an invitation to grow deeper deeper in grace, deeper in wisdom, deeper in gratitude, and deeper in our trust that the God who has walked with us every step of the way will continue to walk with us in every step yet to come.

Whatever our age, may we remember: we are still God's beloved children, still part of His family, and still capable of bearing fruit for His kingdom.





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



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Love God and everyone.

Grow as faithful believers.

Serve together.

