



The Builder

First Christian Church

Midland

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Volume 71 Issue 37

“Faith
and the
Frustrations
of Life”



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Pastors' Articles
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WEEK AT A GLANCE

**SUN
SEPT
27**

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

**TUE
SEPT
29**

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

**WED
SEPT
30**

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

**SUN
OCT
4**

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

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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FCCMIDLAND.ORG



Rev. David Chisham
Senior Minister

Faith and Life's Frustrations

This past Sunday morning,
our sound system had a
mind of its own.

Throughout worship, an annoying static noise kept making itself known. We tried to troubleshoot it. We checked the things we knew to check. But eventually we reached the limits of our expertise. Somewhere in that brand-new system, something was not working the way it was supposed to work.

And that may be one of the simplest definitions of frustration: something is not working the way it is supposed to work.

We've had a few of those moments lately. Last week, we discovered another gas leak at the church. We have dealt with flooding and building issues. And sometimes it isn't the building or the sound system that refuses to cooperate. Sometimes it is our own bodies.

I had been doing really well in my health journey when I managed to wrench some muscles in my lower back. I haven't let it slow me down too much, but I can assure you: it is frustrating. None of these things is the end of the world. But perhaps that is precisely what makes frustration so interesting. Most of our frustrations are not catastrophes. They are the ordinary things that don't work, won't cooperate, take longer than they should, interrupt our plans, and demand attention we would rather give somewhere else.

And frustration rarely stays where it started.

I think about Martha in Luke 10. Jesus has come to her home, and Martha is busy extending hospitality. Luke tells us that she is "distracted by her many tasks." There is work to be done, and Martha is doing it.

A better question might be: Where has my frustration traveled?

But Mary, her sister, is sitting at Jesus' feet. You can almost feel Martha's frustration building. It begins with the work, but it doesn't stay there. Soon Martha isn't simply frustrated that there is too much to do. She is frustrated with Mary for not helping her. Then her frustration travels one step further: "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself?"

Notice how far the frustration has traveled. It started with dinner. Now she is questioning whether Jesus cares.

Frustration rarely stays where it started. We know how that works. Something goes wrong at work, and we carry it home. Our back hurts, and we become impatient with someone who had nothing to do with it. One thing breaks, then another thing goes wrong, and before long we are convinced that nothing is going right. The problem may be real, but somewhere along the way it begins affecting things that were never part of the original problem.

Moses knew something about that. By the time we reach Numbers 20, Moses has spent years dealing with the frustrations of leading Israel

through the wilderness. There have been complaints about food, complaints about water, complaints about leadership, complaints about the journey. When the people complain about water again, Moses finally erupts: “Listen, you rebels!”

That moment is bigger than one complaint about water. Moses has been carrying a lot. So do we. Perhaps one of the questions for us to ask is not simply, “What am I frustrated about?” Usually we already know the answer to that. A better question might be: Where has my frustration traveled?

Has frustration with one situation become impatience with someone else? Has frustration with my body become anger with myself? Has something I cannot control begun controlling my mood, my relationships, or the way I see the world? Has frustration with circumstances even begun to sound like Martha’s question to Jesus: “Lord, do you not care?”

Jesus responds to Martha with remarkable tenderness: “Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things.” There is a sensitivity in Jesus’ response: recognition of the challenge she feels, yet a pastoral sense to help her see what the source of her irritation is.

Paul discovered that too. He prayed repeatedly for his “thorn in the flesh” to be taken away. Instead, he heard: “My grace is sufficient for you.” Some things need to be fixed. We are going to fix

the sound system. We fixed the gas leak. I’m taking care of my back. Faith is not an excuse to ignore problems we can solve.

But not everything can be fixed today. Sometimes faith means refusing to let the frustrating thing become the defining thing. The sound system can have static without static taking over everything else. My back can hurt without everyone around me having to feel my pain. Something can go wrong without everything being wrong.

There will always be “many things.” Something will break. Life will refuse to cooperate. The question is where we allow that frustration to travel.

By the grace of God, perhaps we can learn to let the frustrating thing be frustrating—without letting it have everything else, too.

See you at the Table,



Pantry Volunteers Needed!



CLC@FCC

Making applesauce in 303.







Rev. Remy Tercero
Associate Minister

Life has a way of bringing frustrations we never planned for. Delays, disappointments, unanswered prayers, difficult relationships, and unexpected changes can leave us wondering, “Why is this happening?”

Faith does not mean that we will never become frustrated. Instead, faith reminds us that frustration is not the end of the story.

When circumstances are beyond our control, we can choose to place our trust in God. We may not understand what He is doing, but we can trust that He is still present and working, even when we cannot see the outcome. Scripture reminds us to walk by faith, not by sight”

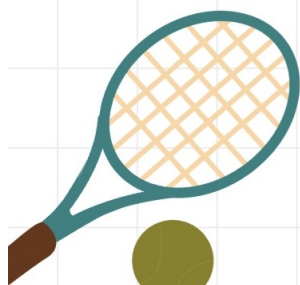
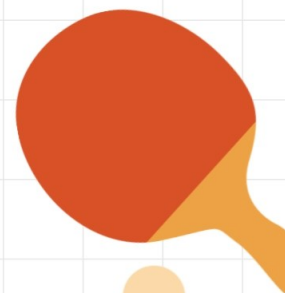
Sometimes faith means waiting. Sometimes it means letting go. Sometimes it simply means taking the next step when we do not know where the road will lead.

Our frustrations may change our plans, but they do not have to change our faith. When life feels overwhelming, take a moment to pray, breathe, and remember: God is not absent in the difficult seasons. He is with us in them.



VOLUNTEER WITH THE
**SPECIAL
OLYMPICS**

OCTOBER 8-10
LINK TO REGISTRATION BELOW





Prayer List

Those in need of prayer:

Lily Disney
Craig Carnahan
Tommy Hawkins
Kathe Hepfer
Tere Valero
Leona Bowman
Lorenzo Espino
Ronny Aaron
Kathe Hepher
Sandy Faulkner
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

Kylie Perley
-Maria & Vinson Cooper
Robby Boyd
Nieta Stephenson-

mother of Mike Stephenson & Michele Hepfer

Pamela Flores-sister of Jeweli Flores

Nickie Oppermann- *Friend of Burgards*

Family of Ed Scott

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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www.fccmidland.org

Love God and everyone.

Grow as faithful believers.

Serve together.

