



The Builder

First Christian Church

Midland

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On Whirlwinds,
Floods,
Earthquakes,
Valleys, and
Sandy Deposits

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SEPT
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4:30PM CHILDREN & YOUTH
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WED
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7AM MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST
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7PM CHOIR

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11:30AM DISCIPLES WOMEN'S
LUNCHEON & BIBLE STUDY

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

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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FCCMIDLAND.ORG





Rev. David Chisham
Senior Minister

On Whirlwinds, Floods,
Earthquakes, Valleys, and
Sandy Deposits

Last week I was smoking barbecue in my backyard. Because the West Texas sun was doing what the West Texas sun does in August, I had set up a shade canopy nearby, and everything was fine when I stepped inside for a few minutes. While inside I heard a strange sound. When I came back outside, the canopy was gone—not just knocked over or dragged across the yard, but gone.

I finally found it dangling in the power lines in the alley behind my house. A little pile of deposited sand was about the only clue to what had happened. Apparently, a dust devil had spun up out of nowhere, made a direct hit on my backyard, picked up the canopy, and a few other BBQ items, and carried it away. There are times when life feels a little like that, when circumstances change suddenly and leave us wondering what in the world has just happened. Some changes come gradually enough that we can prepare ourselves. School starts again, schedules shift, staff members come and go, children grow up, seasons turn, and we make decisions about what comes next. Sometimes we even get to choose the change. I am trying to turn over a new leaf when it comes to my own health, and there are habits I want to change and choices I want to make differently. I am grateful for the opportunity to do that.

But many of the changes that shape our lives are not choices at all. In our congregation right now, there are families who have suddenly found themselves in circumstances they never would

have chosen; life has become unrecognizable in a matter of moments. The wind changes, the ground shifts, and the waters rise.

Scripture knows this territory well. The Bible speaks of storms that threaten to swamp the boat, floodwaters rising, waves roaring, earthquakes that make the mountains tremble,

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wilderness where the path is difficult to see, valleys covered in shadow, nights filled with weeping, and whirlwinds that leave human beings wondering what has happened. The people of Scripture did not live sheltered lives, and faith did not protect them from changing circumstances. What faith gave them was somewhere—and Someone—to turn when circumstances changed.

“God is our refuge and strength,” Psalm 46 says, “a very present help in trouble.” Therefore, the psalm continues, we will not fear even though the earth itself should change, though mountains shake and waters roar. Notice that promise carefully: it does not say the mountains will never shake; it says God will be present when they do.

So what do we do when we find ourselves in the whirlwind? We pray, even when the prayer is nothing more sophisticated than, “God, help me.” We return to the words of Scripture when we cannot find words of our own. The Psalms are especially good companions because they refuse

to pretend that faithful people are always calm, certain, or cheerful.

We stay close to other people, letting someone know when the load has become too heavy to carry alone. We accept the meal, answer the phone, make the appointment, ask for help, and sit beside someone who is hurting. God's strength often reaches us through another person's presence.

We also attend to the next faithful thing. In a storm, we may not be able to see very far ahead, but that does not mean we cannot take the next step. Eat something, rest, pray, call somebody, go to worship, take a walk, or keep the appointment. Do today what love requires today, and trust tomorrow to God.

That also means we should pay attention to one another. We rarely know everything someone else is carrying. The person who seems distracted may be frightened, the person who has not returned your call may be exhausted, and the person who usually has everything together may be standing

in the middle of a whirlwind nobody else can see. So be gentle with one another, be curious before being critical, make the phone call, send the text, and sit down for the conversation. Ask, "How are you doing?"—and leave enough silence for an honest answer.

Sometimes the wind changes without warning, and sometimes the canopy ends up in the power lines. At other times, all we can do is look around, take stock of where we are, reach for one another, and remember that the God who meets people in storms, wildernesses, earthquakes, valleys, and roaring waters is here too.

The circumstances may change, but the presence of God does not.

See you at the Table,




Join Cub Scouts

Adventure
Friendship
Fun!

SCOUTING
BUILDS
CONFIDENCE
FOR LIFE!

EXPLORE
LEARN
GROW

CUB SCOUTS

PACK 67

Meets in the Family Life Center (Michigan and GST)
1301 W Louisiana Ave
Midland, Texas 79701

DO YOUR BEST

Pack 67 ★ Boys & Girls K-5th grade ★ Every Tuesday 6:30-7:30pm ★ First Christian Church

Jessica Little | Cubmaster | 281-979-7945 | buffalotrailpack67@gmail.com



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!

2026-2027 CLC Staff Training



2026-2027 Teacher Appreciation Luncheon provided by First Christian Staff.



GROWKIDS@FCC egg drop this past Sunday!



40+ Fellowship
Get Together

La Bodega

September 19th • 6:30-8:30 PM

RSVP Lauren Disney • 432-664-4674



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.

Midland, TX 79701

432.682.2541

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.

