The Builder

First Christian Church
Midland

November 1, 2026 Volume 71 Issue 41



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Pastors' Articles
Recent & Upcoming Events

WEEK AT A GLANCE

SUN NOV 1
- ALL SAINTS SUNDAY
- 10AM SUNDAY SCHOOL
- 11AM WORSHIP
- 2:30PM HANDBELL CHOIR
- 4:30PM CHILDREN & YOUTH EVENING PROGRAM

TUE NOV 3
- 6:30PM CUB SCOUT PACK 67 GRADES K-5TH
- 7:30PM BOYS SCOUT TROOP 175 6TH -12TH GRADE

WED NOV 4
- 7AM MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST
- 9:30AM FOOD PANTRY
- 7PM CHOIR

SUN NOV 8
- 10AM SUNDAY SCHOOL
- 11AM WORSHIP
- 2:30PM HANDBELL CHOIR

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Rev. David Chisham
Senior Minister

The Love That Holds Us

When we gather for All Saints this year, we will remember members of our church family who have died during the past year. As we remember them, other names and faces will come to mind, too—parents, grandparents, spouses, siblings, friends whose absence we have carried for years. Grief does not consult a calendar before making itself known, and neither does gratitude. Sometimes a familiar hymn or an old family recipe brings someone close enough that we almost expect to hear their voice.

In Matthew's Gospel, the Sadducees approach Jesus with a question intended to make resurrection seem ridiculous. They present an elaborate predicament involving a woman who has married seven brothers in succession: whose wife will she be in the resurrection? Jesus responds by challenging their understanding of both scripture and God's power, directing them to God's declaration to Moses: "I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob" (Matthew 22:32).

I am. There is something wonderfully hopeful in that present tense. God's relationship with these ancestors has not become a thing of the past simply because their earthly lives have ended. Jesus identifies God as the God of the living; death has not exhausted the possibilities of God's faithfulness.

The Sadducees were closely associated with Jerusalem's Temple and its ruling establishment, and they rejected the idea of resurrection. We should be careful about assuming they thought God existed only within the Temple walls, but their encounter with Jesus invites us to consider the boundaries we place around God's activity. Perhaps we recognize God in certain places, certain experiences, certain seasons of life, and struggle to imagine God beyond them. Resurrection hope opens that vision wider, even beyond the boundary of death.

Lately, I have been thinking about another place where we sometimes struggle to recognize God's presence: our own bodies.

I have been rereading Ragan Sutterfield's This Is My Body, which recounts his journey from obesity to competing in an Ironman triathlon, alongside his deepening understanding of embodied faith. His story explores what it means to receive our physical lives as part of God's good creation. Thankfully, appreciating that gift does not require the rest of us to sign up for an Ironman. I have enough trouble negotiating with my bathroom scale.

My own early progress toward better health has slowed, and the numbers are changing more slowly than I would prefer. Many of us know some version of that struggle, whether it comes through the mirror, an aching joint, an illness, or the discovery that something once effortless now requires planning and recovery time.

Yet these bodies belong within our life with God. Created in God's image, we bear a dignity that neither our appearance nor our abilities can measure. When Paul contrasts flesh and Spirit, we should not hear contempt for physical existence; he also describes the body as a temple of the Holy Spirit. Our embodied lives matter profoundly.

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After all, love reaches us through bodies. Someone's hands prepared the meal. Someone's voice offered reassurance. Someone sat beside us through a frightening night, wrapped us in an embrace, or made room for us at the table. Mercy takes physical form in the world, and so does the celebration of life.

Age and illness can change how we express and receive love, sometimes painfully. They cannot make us less worthy of it. Even when speech, memory, or strength fails, a person remains beloved, and the love they have given is not erased.

That is part of what we remember on All Saints. We miss particular people, not just the concept of the person—their laughter, their touch, their presence in the room. Our hope reaches beyond the influence they leave behind to the God who continues to hold them.

As we speak their names, may we give thanks for the flesh-and-blood lives through which love found us. And may we receive our own lives with renewed tenderness, offering whatever mercy, welcome, and joy are ours to give.

The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is still their God, and ours. We entrust our saints, and ourselves, to that enduring love.

See you at the Table,



YOUTHGROW@FCC









New Members



Michael, Suanna, John

Asher Nosike



Cathy Roberts



Chalice Fund Angel Tree Adoption November 8th & 15th!

Benefiting Family Promise Families

Return gifts to the church office by December 8th.

WE'RE HIRING

Children's Ministry Director

PART-TIME • SUNDAY PROGRAMS
FLEXIBLE WEEKDAY HOURS

Help kids grow in faith & belonging.

Hands-on ministry through 5th grade
Coordinate volunteers • Develop programs
Great resources. Supportive community.



First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ) • Midland, TX

Email résumés to
david@fccmidland.org

Prayer List

Those in need of prayer:

Lily Disney
Craig Carnahan
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

Emily Alcorn-
daughter of Rob & Becky Montgomery
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

10/12 Austella Berry
10/23 Meta Jones
10/23 Evelyn Martinez
10/31 Peggy Davis
10/31 Kristen Hepfer

Anniversaries

10/17 Jimmy & Leslie Vines

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First Christian Church Midland

1301 W Louisiana Ave midland, TX 79701

Sunday, November 8th

Please Join Us For All Church

Thanksgiving Luncheon

Honoring our Young at Heart

Immediately Following 11am Worship

Please bring your favorite dessert or side dish to share. Church is providing Turkey, Ham, Dressing, Gravy, Rolls & Drinks!