



The Christian Builder

March 21, 2024

A weekly publication of
First Christian Church Midland
Volume 68 No. 9

www.fcemidland.org • 1301 W. Louisiana Ave., Midland, Texas 79701 • 432.682.2541

Church Calendar

Sunday March 24th

Palm Sunday

10am Sunday School
11am Worship Service
2pm Stephen Ministry
4:30pm CELEBRATE
(K-5th grade)
4:30pm SOLID (6th-12th)

Wednesday March 26th

7am Men's Prayer Breakfast
9am Food Pantry
7pm Choir

Thursday, March 28th

7pm Maundy Thursday Service
Sanctuary

Friday, March 29th

Church Office Closed

Sunday March 31st

Easter Sunday

7am Easter Sunrise Service
Front lawn weather permitting
10am Sunday School
11am Worship Service





Rev. David Chisham
Senior Minister

A TALE OF TWO EMPIRES AND TWO PARADES

Most of us who have been in the church are familiar with the parade Jesus threw as he entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. Throngs of pilgrims and denizens of Jerusalem lined the street as he entered into the city that day. Though the Gospels don't say definitively, Jesus probably entered Jerusalem on the east side of the city through the gates immediately adjacent to the Temple complex. That gate was important since the city of Jerusalem, a walled city, was rather small, so many of the pilgrims camped on the hillsides east of the city; that's also where the Mount of Olives is located. And the detail that we all remember is that Jesus came riding into the city riding on a donkey. What the Gospels don't tell you is that Jesus wasn't the only one riding in a parade that day.

Passover was always a tense time in Jerusalem in the first century—in fact it's still a tense time in the 21st century. And with present circumstances between Israel and Gaza, I can only imagine how tense things will be this year. The population of Jerusalem always explodes as pilgrims flood to the city for worship, and in Jesus' time diverse factions got hot under the collar so extra security was always needed. In the first century, Pontius Pilate, the Roman Governor of Judaea, lived in Caesarea, a relatively new construction city on the Mediterranean coast where he enjoyed sea breezes, fresh fish and cooler temperatures. Pilate only came to Jerusalem when he had to, and he never came alone. Coming from the west side of the city, Pilate would have ridden into the city with a garrison of Roman soldiers to keep the peace and defuse any threat of rebellion.

The contrast between the two parades must have been stark. Jesus rode in on a donkey; the Romans came in with a cavalcade of war horses.

Jesus came with people cheering his arrival; Pilate arrive to muted jeers or silence from the horrified crowd. Jesus arrived with palm branches and clothing spread on the path before him; Pilate arrive with creaking leather, festooned banners, weapons, and intimidation. Pilate arrived with a show of force and power; Jesus came, meek and mild.

At first glance it seems like Jesus didn't know what he was doing. Riding in on a donkey that had never been ridden before, I can only imagine that the poor colt was a less than willing participant. When you dig into the details, it all seems a little ridiculous. But when we put this in context of Good Friday and Easter Sunday, it makes perfect sense.

The humiliation that Jesus endured on Good Friday is foreshadowed in the humility of Palm Sunday. The Romans believed that empires were built with force and intimidation. Many of the Jews of the First Century believed their kingdom had to be forged in the fires of a violent overthrow. Nations and governments have enforced their will with a big stick and a harsh hand. Jesus knew that if his Kingdom was induced through any of these means, it would one day fall prey to another overwhelming force. So rather than a kingdom that thrived on blood and death, he gave his blood that we might live.

The drama of holy week happens so fast; as a child I always wondered how things went south so quickly from the triumphal entry to Good Friday. I encourage you to be attentive through this next week as the reality of Christ's Kingdom is forged in the fires of crucifixion and resurrection. As we prepare for Holy Week and the drama that unfolds, let us keep our eyes and hearts open to witness Christ's humility, and what that means for how we use our power in our relationships.

See you at the Table,





Rev. Remy Tercero
Associate Minister

First Christian Church,

I want to use my newsletter article this week to give my overwhelming thanks to the congregation as a whole. As many of you know, we have our annual Easter

Eggstravaganza at Hill Park on March 31 from 10:30-1.

We are as prepared for this event as we possibly could be and the credit for this accomplishment goes to each of you that helped out with this event in one way or another. We have around 60 volunteers ready to help on the day of the event, which should be an encouraging sign to the congregation. 60 congregants were willing to serve their community in a direct way. I am truly grateful for the support of each of you.

Beyond the 60 volunteers helping with the event, many of you helped out in other ways such as stuffing Easter Eggs, donating funds for the event, purchasing Easter Eggs and so much more. The overwhelming support I have received from the congregation is what made all three of our big events last year a success, and I believe it is what will make our events this year a success as well.

I also want to thank our incredible staff at First

Christian Church who helped me in the preparation of this event in many ways. We have a passionate, friendly and inviting staff right now and that is evident every week in the ways that we lift each other up.

Whether you plan on attending the event or not, I would encourage you to share our Facebook event, as that is a great way to invite people you know to this event. The QR code will take you to the Facebook event and for those of you reading this article online, here is the shareable link to the event.

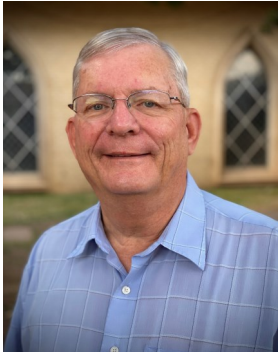
<https://fb.me/c/6hWtfkYHq>



Thank you for your incredible support, and I look forward to another successful Easter Eggstravaganza!

Easter Worship
March 31st
 7 am Sunrise Service
 front lawn
 11 am Worship Service

First Christian Church
 1301 W Louisiana Ave
 www.fccmidland.org



Rev. Tom Jones
Interim Associate Minister

As we begin Holy Week, we remember Jesus' journey toward the cross. His path was one of sacrificial love. Jesus took the ugliness of our sins upon himself. He suffered and died a humiliating death at the hands of a self-destructive, hopeless, loveless people. It is what we see when we rely solely on our humanness. As stark as the crucifixion is, it is not final. The resurrection gives us hope. God

gives us new life by overcoming death and all that separates us from Him. The resurrection begins a new journey with God and with one another. It's a journey filled with God's spirit and His blessings of faith, hope, and love. I am always amazed at how God touches the lives of so many different people. The resurrection is not just a historical event. The possibilities of new life, second chances, and new beginnings happen everyday in all of our lives. He is risen! He is risen indeed!

Stephen Ministry



On Sunday, our Stephen Ministers in training will learn about the importance of confidentiality in the caring relationship. Please keep them in your prayers as they prepare for this vital caring ministry.

Sunday School Palm Sunday is March 24th

ALL children – nursery through 5th grade – need to be in Kid Cave by 10:30 to practice the song, "Amen. Praise the Lord". (The children are singing while they are processing to the front with their palms.) The teachers will take the children to the parlor about 10:45 and wait for the worship service to begin. After their participation, the children will have Children's Moment and then go to Children's Church. Parents will pick up their children in the parlor, after the service – just like always.

CELEBRATE

Children – Kinder through 5th grade – will meet in Kid Cave at 4:30. They will play Gaga Ball in the Family Life Center but will return to Kid Cave for pick-up at 6:00.

Children's Corner



She Is Here!!

Alice Katherine Coffman, born 7:49 pm, 8lbs 5oz, mom and baby are doing good!

Congratulations

Katie & Chaney Coffman

Youth Camp - June 9-13,
McMurry University in Abilene

VBS - June 17-20

Children's Camp - July 27-30,
Heart of Texas Baptist Camp
Lake Brownwood

U P C O M I N G



Our Deepest Sympathy

We extend our heartfelt sympathy and prayers to the following family who have recently lost a loved one:

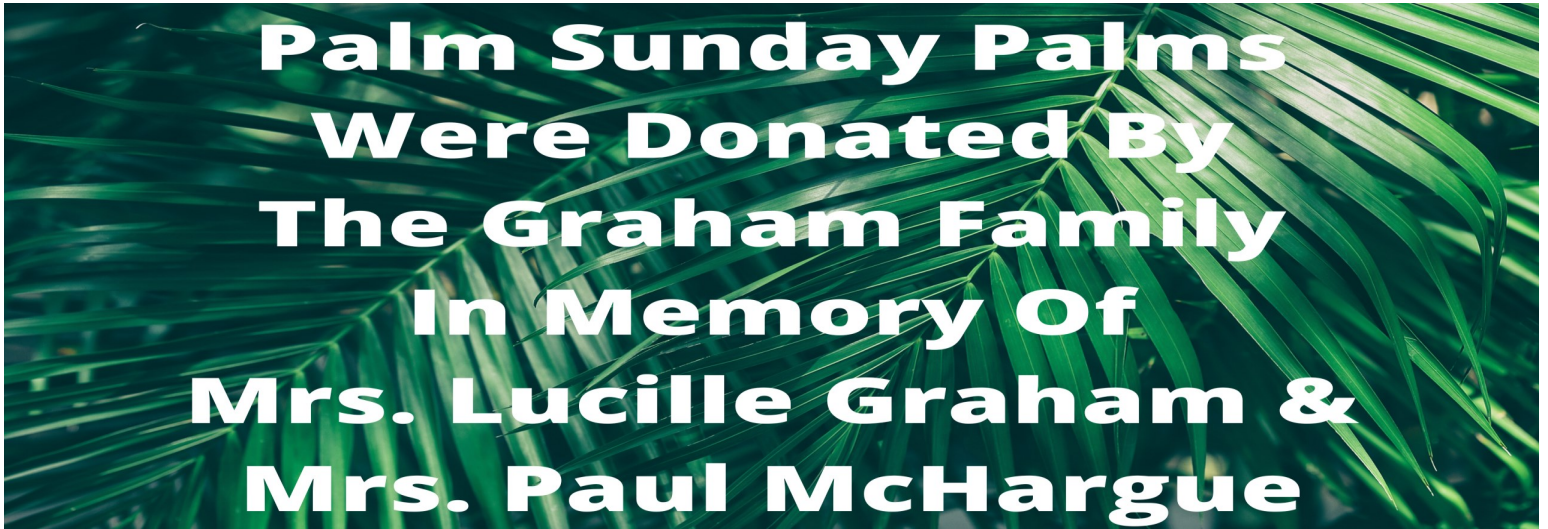
The Windle Family , Cathie Windle passed away on March 6, 2024.

“With the peace and grace of Christ, may the Spirit of God gently enfold all those who sorrow.”

Maundy Thursday March 28th 7pm



**Palm Sunday Palms
Were Donated By
The Graham Family
In Memory Of
Mrs. Lucille Graham &
Mrs. Paul McHargue**



Children's Learning Center

Today in Room 306 we talked about things that can or cannot blow around in the wind.



Birthdays

- 03/03 Jim Morris
- 03/03 Destiny Crudgington
- 03/03 **Morgan Pierce-Dishron**
- 03/05 Mary Lightfoot
- 03/12 Clyde Kinsey
- 03/15 Bill Terry
- 03/16 John Schnable
- 03/17 Kay Hill
- 03/19 Michael Landrum
- 03/20 Teresa Griffin
- 03/22 **Brecken Hattenbach**
- 03/23 Fred Yates
- 03/23 Spencer Armour
- 03/23 David Davis
- 03/24 Mike Stephenson
- 03/25 Sharna Gibbons
- 03/28 **Aimsley Lastoka**
- 03/30 Joe Gassie

03/31 Gary Thompson Anniversaries

- 03/04 Roy & Jeannine Hurst
- 03/12 Charlie & LuAnn Morgan
- 03/17 Beau & Barbara Estes
- 03/17 Joe Gassie & Pat Vincent

Names in red are youth and children



Prayers & Praises

Those in need of prayer:

- Fred Yates
- Bill Boyd
- Vincent Cooper
- Pat Marshall
- Ginny Estes
- Joshua Harrison
- Mary Beth Corbett
- Linda Taylor
- Lisa Craven
- Mark Cranford
- Crickett Harrison
- Betty Odom
- Anne & Fred Schwiening
- Nicky Rodriguez
- Lana Cooley
- Carol Cook
- Marian Mussett
- Janell Burnett
- C.C. Petteway
- Pat Chambers
- Kathy Landrum
- Sheila Crudgington
- Gary Thompson
- Faye Carey

Military:

- Lee Anna Crudgington
- Tyler Brown- *grandson of Lyn Brown*
- Kinder McCullough-Hyde-*daughter of Bill & Kelley McCullough*
- Seth Hyde-Son-In -Law of Bill & Kelley McCullough

Chase Newkumet & Family-*friend of Bea Lea Somerville*

Families, Friends Beyond FCC

- Greg Eddings- *friend of Jeweli Flores*
 - Tiffany Boatman-*sister of Jeweli Flores*
 - Austin Flores & Family-*family of Misty Treloar*
 - Grayson Pickett-*friend of Jeweli Flores*
 - Cindy Singleton-*daughter-in-law of Joy Singleton*
 - Al Schorre-*friend of Sharon Boyd*
 - Ferrell Powell-*friend of Sharon Boyd*
 - Robin Diegan & Jason Diegan- *cousins of Ginny Estes*
 - Amanda Bryant-*friend of Dave & Kathy Cromwell*
 - Freda Benton
 - Amanda Lee-*friend of Janice Ford*
 - Reymondo Garcia-*brother of Maria Vinson*
 - Gary Kennedy -*friends of Lauren & Justin Disney*
 - Anfernee Jones-*grandson of Jean Jones*
 - Fred Copeland-*father of Lauren Disney*
 - Ed Keah-*friend of Joy Singleton*
 - J.M. Moore - *father of Kathy Landrum*
 - Marsha Barrett - *sister of Enid Hunter*
 - Dan Leonard-*friend of Peggy Jones*
 - Kairos Conde - *nephew of Olivia Espino*
 - Oscar Garcia - *brother of Amparo Olquin*
- Continued Prayers for Ministry Architect team

Please inform the church office if you or a loved one are admitted into a hospital, so we may be there for you & your family.

For submission to prayer list contact any staff, submit via web, or e-mail prayerchain@fccmidland.org



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Good Friday
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March 30th

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