

Do All The Good You Can!

On Sunday, we kicked off a new Christian Outreach Campaign titled "Do All The Good You CAN!" It will stay with us throughout the next 12 months and feature a variety of different opportunities for everyone to get involved and invite friends and neighbors to get involved. From July to January, we will be collecting aluminum cans for recycling and donating them to the Evans family in Guthrie who recycles them and uses the funds to donate to the "Aluminum Cans for Burned Children" organization. This group helps children recovering from burns.

The Evans family lost a daughter and three grandchildren in an apartment fire in January 2019. At the time, the children attended Charter Oak Elementary and Guthrie Upper Elementary, where many of our students attend and two of our members are principals. We are blessed to support this worthy cause!

If you have cans to donate, you can bring them to the church and put them in the collection bins in the sanctuary entryway. If you need a member of the Outreach Team to come to your home and pick them up that can be arranged by calling the church office (282-4080). Also, encourage your friends and neighbors to participate!

Do All The Good You CAN!



CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

The new Caregiver Support Group will meet this Friday at 6 p.m. at Karen and John Allen's home, 106 Briarwood Lane, Guthrie. This group is open to anyone who is currently caring for a loved one or friend who is battling physical, mental or social difficulties. The group typically orders food ahead and eats at the beginning of the meeting. We spend time sharing about how things are going, what struggles we are having and brainstorming self-care ideas, as well as ideas of how to improve life for those we care for each day. This month, we will discuss a book and Bible Study opportunity for those who want to participate. If you are interested in this group, call or text Karen Allen at 405-615-2240 or e-mail karenkallen@cox.net.

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The Tie That Binds First Christian Church

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Updates from Pastor Ronnie

Greetings! As we continue through this chapter of life we are doing our best to meet the worship needs of our church family. In that direction, starting July 26, we will be offering 3 ways to engage in Sunday morning worship.

- 1) We will continue to offer worship online. This is accessible through Facebook and our website (www.fccguthrie.org).
- 2) Our 10:30 a.m. service will still be brief, touchless, encourage mask wearing and social distancing, but now we will re-introduce congregational singing.
- 3) NEW! We will begin a 9 a.m. service. This service will **REQUIRE** mask wearing, social distancing, and will be touchless. The service will be 30 minutes and will include prayer, communion and a sermon. There will be no singing, but there will be pre-recorded music.

We know that there is no perfect solution, but as we looked at the surveys and had discussions among Elders we felt this would be a better fit for our congregation. The results of the survey are in today's newsletter and we appreciate everyone's feedback to help us make this decision.

As always, the situation remains fluid with how to meet needs and remain safe. We will continue to monitor and survey as needed to get your valuable input. At some point, we look forward to returning to one service when the time is right.

We continue to practice social distancing and other safety procedures to offer a "touch-free" worship experience on Sunday mornings. Join us for worship in-person, online at www.fccguthrie.org and on our Facebook page "First Christian Church of Guthrie" at 10:30 a.m. this Sunday.

FCC KIDS & YOUTH

Water Olympics are this Sunday night!

This Sunday evening, July 26 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. come join us at the Central OK Camp grounds for Water Olympics! We have several fun water games planned for everyone to play and have fun. After we play our water games, we'll have a campfire and enjoy some s'mores! This will be an entirely outside event and we hope to see you out there! Bring some towels for the ride home and lawn chairs if you'd like to sit and watch. Please call the church office if you need directions to the camp. The address is #1 Twin Cedar Lane, Guthrie.

Movie Night Updates

The date for our movie night in the parking lot has changed! We will now be getting together on Tuesday, Aug. 11 for our last night of organized fun for our summer series. Come out and bring the whole family to the FCC parking lot that evening for a giant water slide, free hot dog dinner with chips and cookies, and plan to stay to watch the movie in your lawn chair! Invite your friends and family, this will be an evening you don't want to miss! The festivities start at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 11! Bring whatever you'd like to sit in or on for the movie; movie starts at dusk!

Back-to-School Sunday

Back-to-School Sunday is Aug. 9 during our 10:30 a.m. worship service! All students are encouraged to bring their backpacks to the service so we can pray over the students, their backpacks, the educators, and our families for the upcoming school year. All students of any age are welcome to participate! They will receive a small gift to put on their backpacks to help them remember that God is always beside them throughout their school year. We will also say a special prayer for all of our educators and school administrators, and they will receive a gift to show FCC's appreciation and support for each of them. Our kids who will be going into 1st grade will also receive their new Bibles from the church on this day! It's going to be a big Back-to-School Sunday this year. We hope your family will be there with us as we kick off the new year in prayer. If your family is worshipping with us from home, please call the church office to let us know and we can coordinate how to get your kids' backpack tags to you.

YOUTH MINISTRIES

What a unique summer it has been and now its coming to an end, well, the unique seems to never end...One thing that hasn't changed is our need to be a part of something bigger! August will prove to be another challenge for us to find ways to feel connected to each other and God's amazing stories. We will however, keep trying, with opportunities to meet online and in person. Here's what August looks like so far: **ZOOMvivor - Wednesdays @ 8:30 p.m.** **Outdoor movie night – Tuesday, Aug. 11 @ 6:30 p.m.** **Glow Party - Sunday, Aug. 23 @ 8:00 p.m.** If you have a student going into the 7th - 12th grade contact Staci Carey to get information about in person events and Zoom online meetings.

Keeping Up With Karen



How are you doing?

A little over a month ago I shared a sermon that discussed this question and challenged you not to answer that question with a simple "fine" or "okay." Many of you have since shared how you gravitated to that thought and have become more honest in your responses with one another. Many of you have called me and shared how you are *really* doing and for that I am thankful.

We are in a challenging time!

That phrase doesn't even come close to summarizing how most of us feel right now. Whether you are quarantining, trying to balance getting out and staying safe or just hoping for the best it is hard to wrap your mind around all that is going on in our world. Better yet, it is hard to balance keeping yourself and your family healthy while navigating uncharted waters with a virus that shows so many different signs and symptoms.

What have we learned?

We have learned that nobody reacts the same when things get difficult. Personally, there are days when I think I am confident in how I feel like our family should proceed and then I let a news story or someone's experience change how I feel. We have learned that filling our minds with a million viewpoints seems to only paralyze our ability to make decisions.

I have learned that reading what someone posts or listening to what someone says and assuming it defines them forever right now is probably not the best way to proceed. It is fair to say no one is reacting in ways they normally would.

So what do you do?

It's time for more grace and peace. I know Ronnie has said it before but as often as I want to react harshly to what is happening, I am trying to remember that my words and actions may not be typical and so as much as I hope for grace to be extended to me, I in turn, need to be a giver of grace as well.

It's time to build stronger relationships. It's okay to not agree 100% of the time. We can still "play" together even if we don't all get our way all the time! We can learn to talk, listen and learn from one another about what is important to each of us.

And last but certainly not least... PRAY!

We need to pray for those working to tame this virus and find a vaccine/cure. We need to pray for those currently battling illness and those working on the frontlines. We need to pray for our leaders – national, state, city, church, school and businesses as they navigate steps to keep our cities open and operating in a safe manner with the least risk. We need to pray for those who have been homebound/high risk since March and unable to get out at all as they deal with the emotional and mental realities of the pandemic. We need to pray for race relations and finding ways to communicate where we can hear one another and value human life. Finally, pray for our world moving forward as we determine the "new normal" and find peace in all situations.

Last night, I was texting with a friend and happened to type about how frustrated I was when something was shared on Facebook and it quickly becomes the "gospel truth" and gets shared over and over. Then I quickly realized how eager we are to share "news" about what is going on in our world right now...good and bad. What if we were all just as eager to share about our faith and the real "gospel truth!" I believe that is the way we are going to change this world and get through this period and answer the question: "*How are you doing?*" My answer hopefully is becoming: I'm getting better each day, looking toward Christ to direct my steps, my words, my actions because I cannot do it alone.

Grace and Peace to each of you! Know you are in my thoughts and on my heart!

Karen



Prayer Request



Preparing for surgery: Velma Johnson (July 23), Gregg Gumerson (Aug. 3)

We pray for our church family: Dennis Lynch, Joan Dreessen, Karen Yancey, Sherry Canning, Basil Belveal, Linda Cameron, Rae Burns, Sharon Doan & Mykah Hamel-Honeycutt, Mike Canning, Crystal Vassar, Lesley Rodgers, Dave Williams, Debbie Considine, Mike Carey, Dorothy Herbert

We pray for our friends and family members: Isabelle Doan, Family of Paul Fitzgerald, Wanda Ferguson, Bobby Underwood, Norma Rasmussen, Nancy Layne, Sarah Schlueter, Louise Cotton, Mary Coffin, Jerry Williams, Deborah Dean, Brandi Carry, Rod Richardson, Keith Gordon, Marc Simmons, Brenda Piland, Valerie Cotton, Sydney Kohpay, James Stowe, Lucy Pridham, Katheryn Webb Feken, Roberta Coleman, Kinsley Murri, Cathy Carter, Pam Billings, Judy Ravenas, Janetta Hibbler, Stephanie Wagner Lowrance, Kayla Thetford

And our military all over the world: Bonnie Epperson, Jonah Friese, Garret Canning, T.J. Wilson, Brent Walton, Matt Byce, Cody Ingram

Survey Results

We had 71 people/family units respond to the survey. Of those surveyed, 46 answered that they had been attending worship in-person regularly or somewhat regularly. We also had 61 family units indicate they are watching regularly or somewhat regularly online. A number of people indicated that some weeks they attend in person and some weeks online.

Overall, responses show that 62% are interested in adding singing back to the 10:30 a.m. service. We have 13 people/family units who are interested in a 9 a.m. "safe service." The majority of people (63%) said singing would not affect their attendance, 21% said their attendance would increase, while 17% said they would attend less often.

Guthrie Ministerial Alliance Annual Picnic

Sunday, August 16 * 5 -7 p.m. * Central Oklahoma Camp

Free food, games, live entertainment and a homemade ice cream contest
Bring a chair and come have a great time with us!

If you would like to enter the ice cream contest, contact the church office for more info.



August Birthdays!

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 – Jessica McLain | 12 – George Hopkins | 24 – Nikolas Pena |
| 2 – Staci Carey | 14 – Pam Williams | Terri Graybeal |
| Braylon Blakemore | 15 – Ashley Beeson | 26 – Trish Coker |
| 3 – Katy Anderson | A.J. Griffin | Minda Ciardi |
| Rick Savory | Cherokee Rice | 27 – John Allen |
| 4 – Todd Wilder | Les Welch | Max Fields |
| Linda Cameron | 16 – John Shore | 28 – Kiley Russell |
| Chase Ketch | Brandon Parker | Ginger Simpson |
| 5 – Sherri McCollough | 17 – Carolyn Chappell | Anita Riddle |
| Wilma Rogers | 19 – Griffin Ball | Bill McLain |
| 7 – Jerry Rucker | 20 – Chris Schroder | 29 – Gracie Ball |
| 8 – Neil Scheihing | Chris Ciardi | Stan Wieczorek |
| Candy Staring | 21 – Anna Stevens | Emmett Hardin |
| 9 – Henry Cotton | Craig Benham | 30 – David Ball |
| 11 – Codi Canning | 22 – Bonnie Reynolds | Justin Stevens |
| | | 31 – Matthew Yancey |

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2 – Rick & Susan Savory | 15 – George & Joan Dreessen |
| 6 – Kevin & Alicia Carey | 26 – Greg & Elise Friese |
| 9 – Ronnie & Shana Fields | Barry & Wendy Anderson |
| 11 – Carl & Diane Biggs | 29 – Keith & Deannie Young |
| 12 – Bobby & Susan Davison | 30 – Herb & Sheryl Reeve |

Mark your calendars:
August 12 – Elders Meeting @ 6 p.m.
followed by Board Meeting @ 7 p.m.