

News & Events

December 15, 2020

First Christian Church

Disciples of Christ
Guthrie, Oklahoma

405-282-4080

www.fccguthrie.org



Merry Christmas! (almost there...can't wait!) I love Christmas time so much. People giving and doing more than they normally would because the Spirit moves them. I have seen so many amazing people giving and supporting and providing what was needed, when it was needed. Thank you so much for putting flesh and bone on "God is with us!"



Well after a trial run last week (lol...ugh) we will again attempt to meet for in-person worship this Sunday. (Please remember we will continue to offer online worship indefinitely.) Remember to wear your mask and stay socially distanced to show love for your neighbor and keep everyone safe. I look forward to seeing you in-person and online this Sunday!

Ronnie

Kid's Worship XTRA this week!

Since we missed out last week, KWX (3rd-6th graders) will meet this Sunday during worship. Meet Staci in the Choir Room after the Children's Moment.



DONUT SUNDAY!

Join us Sunday at 10:15 a.m. for donuts and juice prior to worship



We are looking forward to worshipping together at our candlelight Christmas Eve service. We will have one service at 5 p.m. on Dec. 24. Masks, hand sanitizer and social distancing will be required.

Congregational Meeting **THIS SUNDAY**

This Sunday following the worship service we will have a congregational meeting. There is only one agenda item, the 2021 Operating Budget. A copy of that budget is included in this issue of the News & Events.



Advent - Week 3

I'm so thankful to get to see the kids in person this week for Kid's Worship! If you are worshiping online with us, I am thankful for your family as well! If you'd like daily prompts, ideas, discussion questions, or just general fun info to use with your family at home throughout the week, no matter how you are choosing to worship during this season, please make sure you have joined our Facebook group! It's Kids @ FCC Guthrie. You can find us by either typing the group name in the search bar on your facebook page or you can go to our main FCC page and our group is linked from there. If you are not able to find it, please email nahardin@gmail.com and she'll get you added to it.

For our 3rd week of Advent, our Bible story focused on Matthew 1:18-25 and knowing that God has a plan. Joseph was having a hard time seeing how God could use something that was tough for him for good. But in the end, Joseph saw that God had a plan, not only for the good of his family, but for the good of the entire world!

After you read the Bible story with your kids, ask:

- How did Joseph feel when he first found out that Mary was pregnant and things weren't going as he planned? (Not happy, worried, etc)
 - Who did God send to Joseph to show that God had a plan? (an angel)
- God sent an angel to tell Joseph about His plan for this baby to save the world!

This week, talk with your family about a time that you had a hard time seeing how God used something tough for you for good. Talk about how you felt while it was hard and then how you felt when you could finally see God's plan in the tough time.

Pray with your family this week: God, Thank you for loving us and sending us Your Son Jesus so that we can celebrate Christmas! Help us to believe, even when we can't see it, that You have a plan for our lives! We love you, Amen.

Ms. Natalie, Children's Minister

YOUTH ANGEL TREE SHOPPING

Angel tree shopping is rescheduled for this Sunday. We will meet at FCC at 4 p.m. and travel to Edmond for shopping and food then head back to wrap things up and play a gift exchange game... whew! We plan to be done by 8 p.m. Please bring \$5 for Canes, a mask & an item that you already own (and are willing to give away) to play the gift game. This will be our last time to get together before the new year. Youth Nights will return on Jan. 10 at 5 p.m.

Check out our Advent Devotions posted on our Instagram & Facebook pages.

Our love and sympathy go out to: Kenneth Walter & Family in the death of his mother, Lenore Miles

Hospitalized at this time: Linda Cameron (Tulsa - ICU), Karen Yancey (Mercy OKC - ICU), Dennis Lynch (Integrus)

Preparing for surgery: Basil Belveal (1/5)

We pray for our church family: Sarah Anderson, Corey Timmons, Joann LeGrande, Dorothy Smith, Barbara Wilder, Ron Fields, Larry Stinchcomb, Joan Dreessen, Sherry Canning, Debbie Considine, Mike Carey, Dorothy Herbert

We pray for our friends: Family of Glen Graham, Harold and Mary Hembree, Terry Thompson, Brooklyn VanGroll, Geraldine Henderson, Family of Loc Le, Kim Le, Family of Inez Dodson, Martin Hoel, Jason Dodd, Lucy Pridham, Paula Jean Nulick, Mary Daymund, Lisa Conti, Joan Faye Meacham, Darrin Robb, Wes Black, Rosemary Standerfer, Mary Coffin, Jerry Williams, Rod Richardson, Keith Gordon, Brenda Piland, Valerie Cotton, James Stowe, Katheryn Webb Feken, Cathy Carter, Pam Billings, Janetta Hibbler, Kayla Thetford

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

#FCCAllIn



The Incarnate Title: Emmanuel

Scripture: Matthew 1: 20-23 Hebrews 1: 1-3

Monday A sign in Isaiah's time; a reality in Jesus Isaiah 7:5-16, Matthew 1:22-23

FCC Guthrie

Three kings were plotting to attack Israel, and King Ahaz was frightened. The prophet Isaiah said to ask for a sign that God was with him. The stubborn king refused, but Isaiah gave him a sign anyway—a young woman would give birth to a son. Before the boy reached bar mitzvah age—age 13), the plotting kingdoms would lose their power (and they did). Matthew said Mary's son completed Isaiah's prophecy by being God's presence for all people.

- Matthew 18:20 quoted Jesus as saying, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I'm there with them." And the gospel's final verse, Matthew 28:20, carried the promise that "I myself will be with you every day until the end of this present age." What settings or practices help to make God's presence real to you? What makes God's presence as important for you (and each one of us) as it was for King Ahaz?

- Scholar William Barclay summed up Matthew's message: "Jesus is the one person who can tell us what God is like, and what God means us to be. In him alone we see what God is and what man ought to be." In what ways have you been able to make Jesus central to your understanding of what God is like? Has that helped you to avoid some of the negative, frightening images of God some people have? If so, how?

Prayer: O Lord, on that first Christmas you came into our midst. You were human, but you were also more. Give me insight and humility as I grapple to internalize the mystery that you were Emmanuel, "God with us." Amen.

Tuesday Life: from eternity to where we could see and touch it 1 John 1:1-3

John used lofty, nearly ecstatic language as he reflected (probably several decades later) on his experience of knowing and following Jesus. Commentator Glenn Barker captured John's central point: "This message is from the beginning because it is of God. It precedes creation, time, and history. But in God the message of life also draws near to humanity and finds its culmination in Jesus. In him the Word of life becomes incarnated [made flesh], manifested, and hence can be seen, touched, and even handled."

- John's claim was (and is) amazing. He said he had heard, seen, looked at and touched "the Word of life" which was "from the beginning": i.e. God, the creator and savior! How can John's simple, direct eyewitness testimony give you a firmer basis for your faith? How, without the same physical experience John had of Jesus, have you been able to trust that Jesus is "the eternal life that was with the Father"?

- John wrote that sharing the good news about Jesus as "God with us" draws us into fellowship (community) with one another and with God. Do you value connections with people that have come about because of your shared faith in Jesus? How can you keep your heart and life open to inviting others into this worldwide, centuries-old fellowship?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, sometimes I think of you as a figure in a painting or a statue. But witnesses like John said they actually knew you as a real man. Help me to grasp, and live out, the reality that you are still really with me today. Amen.

Wednesday "I am in the Father and the Father is in me" John 14:7-11

The gospel of John began with language similar to that we read in 1 John: "No one has ever seen God. God the only Son, who is at the Father's side, has made God known" (John 1:18). John did not invent such words about Jesus out of thin air. He recorded that Jesus himself, on the night before his crucifixion, told the disciples, "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father."

- In some Bible stories, God sounds angry, brutal or unloving. Those stories may reflect human misunderstanding, shaped by ancient culture, or perhaps loving acts that only seem unloving to us because of our partial understanding. But in Jesus, who came to be "lifted up" on the cross so we can have eternal life, we find the definitive picture of God's heart. Has knowing Jesus reshaped any of your images of God? How deeply are you able to trust the truth of Jesus' saying?

- Jesus asked, "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been with you all this time?" It is still possible to go to church for many years, to know many facts about the Bible and the church, and yet not know Jesus. For how much time have you been around Jesus and his message? In what ways do you wish to grow deeper in knowing Jesus, not just knowing about him?

Prayer: O Jesus, Revelation paints a picture of you knocking at the door of my heart, seeking leave to enter. This Advent season, I seek to open that door more widely to you than ever before, to commit myself to knowing you. Amen.

Thursday "The Son is the image of the invisible God" Colossians 1:13-20

The poetic words of verses 15-20 appear to be the lyrics to an early Christian hymn in honor of Jesus. Like other first-century Christian writing, these verses did not seek to explain the mystery that the human Jesus was "God with us." They simply stated it as the reality that Paul and the early believers said was transforming their lives.

“All the fullness of God” lived in him, said this joyous hymn. He truly was “God with us.”

- If we focus on the stories that usually lead the news, we might wonder what the final line of the Christ hymn is supposed to mean: “He brought peace through the blood of his cross.” Too often, in homes, companies or nations, we try to bring about peace by changing external conditions while leaving hearts unchanged. In what ways has Jesus brought peace into your life “from the inside out”? How have you seen that kind of peace transform alienation and pain into renewed relationships?

- Dick Lucas wrote that “If [Col. 1:15-20] was a spiritual song along the lines of Colossians 3:16, it would make the teaching hymns of even a Charles Wesley (who wrote over 6500 hymns in the 1700s) appear lightweight.” Review the hymn’s lyrical lines, noting all of the qualities and actions of Jesus they name. Which of them mean the most to you? Which of them would you like to understand better?

Prayer: Lord God, you are so much grander and greater than I am—yet you want me to know you. Thank you for coming in Jesus to show me a clear image of what you are like. Amen.

Friday God with us—in humble service and suffering Philippians 2:5-8

Jesus was not the kind of “king” people expected. He was not the kind of “savior” human wisdom wished for. And he was also not “God with us” in the way we might expect God to come. Today’s reading, another early Christian hymn, honored Jesus, but not by starting with his power or majesty. It praised his willingness to “empty himself” (the literal meaning of the Greek in 2:7) for us. Jesus did not demand divine prerogatives, but came to serve, and even to suffer.

- The New International Reader’s Version sums up well this hymn’s view of the depth of Jesus’ descent: “He came down to the lowest level. He obeyed God completely, even though it led to his death.” Pastor Bill Hybels wrote a book called *Descending into Greatness* based on this passage. Does that kind of “career path” (or “life path”) strike you as backward, or do you sense the power that it carries? How does this deepen your understanding of what it means to want to “be like Jesus”?

- Scholar H. C. Hewlett said “humility” means “the recognition of our true littleness as those dependent utterly on God.” That differs from yielding outwardly while being irate inside about someone else “winning” or depriving you of a treasured “perk.” How can that kind of humility, modeled by Jesus, open your heart to God’s love? How can it clear away inner barriers that may block us from loving one another?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, the old hymn says you could have called 10,000 angels to take you off the cross. But you didn’t—you chose to save me rather than preserve your own comfort or dignity. Help me to have your attitude in my daily life. Amen.

Saturday “God’s dwelling is here with humankind”—forever Revelation 5:6-13, 21:1-5

Jesus wasn’t “God with us” just for a few first-century years. He pledged to remain with us in the Holy Spirit (cf. John 14:16-18). More than that, Revelation’s amazing symbolic vision said that by his life, death and resurrection Jesus, “the slaughtered Lamb,” made God’s presence with us a reality for all of eternity. No matter what life throws at us, we can live, like those first Christians, trusting that THIS is where history is going: “He will dwell with them, and they will be his peoples. God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

- The symbols in Revelation 5 can seem bizarre at first (e.g. a Lamb with seven horns and seven eyes?). To people with Hebrew backgrounds, the number “seven” meant “complete” or “perfect.” These images said that Jesus, perfect in power (7 horns) and able to perfectly “see” what you need (7 eyes) is the Lamb of God, the center of all true worship now and forever. In what ways have these Advent studies deepened your understanding of Jesus as your true king, as your savior, and as God with us? How fully are you able to join in singing, “Blessing, honor, glory, and power belong to the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb forever and always”?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, help me to grow more comfortable and trusting in your presence each day, so that I can look forward with greater joy and hope to being with you through all eternity. Amen.

First Christian Church, Guthrie

Proposed Budget for 2021

	2020 Budget	Proposed 2021 Budget	Proposed Increase/ (Decrease)
Christian Education			
Children's Ministries	750.00	650.00	(100.00)
Christmas Program	250.00	250.00	0.00
Curriculum	500.00	500.00	0.00
Nursery Wages & Taxes	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00
Promotion Bibles	0.00	100.00	100.00
Vacation Bible School	250.00	250.00	0.00
Church Camps (\$100 per camper)	2,200.00	2,200.00	0.00
Youth Ministries	250.00	250.00	0.00
Total Christian Education	6,200.00	6,200.00	0.00
Christian Outreach			
Community Involvement	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00
Central Camp & Conference	3,000.00	3,000.00	0.00
Disciples Mission Fund	3,000.00	3,000.00	0.00
God's Food Bank	200.00	200.00	0.00
Hands of Jesus Food Pantry	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
Hope House	0.00	480.00	480.00
Lunch On Noble	200.00	200.00	0.00
Lunch on Us (L.O.U.'s)	200.00	0.00	(200.00)
Ministerial Alliance	100.00	100.00	0.00
Community Assistance	3,100.00	2,820.00	(280.00)
Mass Mailings	0.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Mission Sunday/Mission Work	1,350.00	1,350.00	0.00
School Support	3,500.00	2,000.00	(1,500.00)
United Way of Logan County	1,700.00	1,700.00	0.00
Total Christian Outreach	19,350.00	19,350.00	0.00
Connections			
All-Church Events	100.00	200.00	100.00
All-Church Picnic	100.00	0.00	(100.00)
Mileage - Sr. Pastor	1,000.00	750.00	(250.00)
Mileage - Assoc. Minister	250.00	225.00	(25.00)
Newsletter Postage	500.00	475.00	(25.00)
SimpleChurch Database	1,000.00	1,400.00	400.00
Total Connections	2,950.00	3,050.00	100.00

	2020 Budget	Proposed 2021 Budget	Proposed Increase/ (Decrease)
Personnel			
Salaries & Payroll Taxes	243,514.50	241,774.50	(1,740.00)
Staff Christmas Bonuses	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00
Honorarium for Subs	200.00	0.00	(200.00)
Reimbursable Accounts			
Senior Pastor	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
Associate Minister	750.00	750.00	0.00
	<u>247,464.50</u>	<u>245,524.50</u>	<u>(1,940.00)</u>
Property			
A/C & Boiler Repairs	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00
Capital Improvements	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00
Fire Detection Inspection	400.00	400.00	0.00
Gasoline	500.00	500.00	0.00
Insurance	24,000.00	24,000.00	0.00
Janitorial Supplies	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00
Lawn & Flower Care	2,500.00	2,500.00	0.00
Pest Control	1,650.00	1,650.00	0.00
Supplies, Repairs & Maintenance	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
Utilities	20,000.00	20,000.00	0.00
Van Maintenance	800.00	800.00	0.00
Total Property	<u>56,850.00</u>	<u>56,850.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Stewardship			
Office Supplies	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00
Stewardship Drive Mailing	200.00	0.00	(200.00)
Stewardship Appreciation Dinner	200.00	0.00	(200.00)
Fellowship Supplies	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00
Website	250.00	250.00	0.00
Marketing & Promotions	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
Stewardship Promotion & Education	250.00	650.00	400.00
Total Stewardship	<u>8,900.00</u>	<u>8,900.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Worship			
Advent Candles & Bobeches	125.00	0.00	(125.00)
Christmas	150.00	0.00	(150.00)
Communion	400.00	400.00	0.00
Instrument Maintenance	300.00	300.00	0.00
Lent - Maundy Thursday	50.00	0.00	(50.00)
Lent - Palm Sunday	50.00	0.00	(50.00)
Literature - The Secret Place devotion	200.00	209.00	9.00
Livestream & Video Production	0.00	900.00	900.00
Music: Choir, Handbells, Instruments	250.00	250.00	0.00
Music & Video Copyright Licensing	850.00	850.00	0.00
Supplies	100.00	475.00	375.00
TextInChurch App	0.00	564.00	564.00
Total Worship	<u>2,475.00</u>	<u>3,948.00</u>	<u>1,473.00</u>
TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET	344,189.50	343,822.50	(367.00)