

# News & Events

December 8, 2020

## First Christian Church

Disciples of Christ  
Guthrie, Oklahoma

405-282-4080

www.fccguthrie.org



### Daily Devotional is now available in today's edition and online; Boiler Repairs, Return to Worship and Budget Approval Discussed

Greetings church! I hope your preparation for celebrating the birth of our Savior is going well. Remember we have a daily devotional if you would like to grow deeper this holiday season.

It is a busy time in the life of the church, despite what is going on around us. This week we will have a board meeting filled with lots of important decisions. We will vote to move forward with the installation of a new boiler. (Our current boiler is barely keeping our Mother's Day Out children, church offices and rooms for all the organizations

that meet here warm.) We will be deciding what to do for the remainder of the year pertaining to in-person worship. (Please know that if we vote to move forward with in-person worship, there may be stricter policies, such as masks and pews roped off — per Elders recommendations.) And we will be finalizing the budget to present to the congregation. Please continue to be in prayer for our church and the leaders as we make difficult decisions.



#### Congregational Meeting

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 on pages 6 & 7 in this issue of the News & Events.

### THANK YOU TO OUR WORSHIP TEAM

Our sanctuary looks amazing! We want to thank Linda Wrede for the beautiful new bows on our Christmas wreaths. We also want to thank our worship team, led by Darla Trench and Elise Ellis for their hard work decorating our amazing Sanctuary. We appreciate you!

#### Stockings Are Filled!

Thank you to everyone who sponsored Stockings for our school-aged children! We have completed filling more than 200 stockings. Although we had hoped to have a Christmas store this year, the spike in COVID has caused us to reconsider that plan and we will be distributing to the schools, as we have in the past. We will be sorting the items at 11:45 a.m. this Sunday and preparing them for delivery. If you would like to help sort, please call or text our Outreach Team Leader Stacey Johnston at 405-637-5190.

#### **YOUTH EVENTS FOR DECEMBER**

Advent Highlights for Jr High & High School students:

**\*\*Dec. 13 - Angel Tree Shopping & Wrapping, 4-7 p.m.** (meet at FCC, bring \$5 for dinner, we will leave FCC at 4 p.m., go to Target to purchase items, grab dinner and come back to FCC to sort and wrap gifts, we will be done by 7.)

**\*\*Dec. 20 - Christmas Party, 6-8 p.m.** (bring a re-gift item/something you already own that you think someone else would like to have ;)

If you have a Jr. High or High School student and would like more information contact our Youth Minister Staci Carey at 405-831-5509.



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.

# KIDS

# & Youth Ministries

## Advent - Week 2

It's the 2nd week of Advent! Our Bible story for this week is about Mary's good news and is from Luke 1:26-56. Read this passage with your family and then talk about how this shows us that God can do anything! Christmas is a time to celebrate a time when God did something only God could do! After you read the story with your family, ask them these questions:

-What was the name of the baby that God was going to give to Mary? (Jesus)

-What was so special about this baby? (He is God's Son! He is the Savior of the world!)

-True or False: Mary believed God could do anything. (True) That's right! The Bible says that Mary was blessed because she believed that God can do anything!

So remember, no matter what we face, just like Mary, we can believe that God can do anything!

This week, talk with your family about a time that you were afraid. Talk about if you remembered you could trust in God to help you through that time. Ask your kids if there was a time that they were afraid and then try to help them with steps they can take next time to remember that God can do anything!

Pray with your family this week: Dear God, Thank you for sending us your Son, Jesus, so we can celebrate Christmas! When we're feeling afraid, help us to remember that You can do anything! Thank you for giving us the story of Mary in the Bible to help us see that just like You did for Mary, You can do anything for us! We love you. Amen.



The Connections Team would like to send a huge thank you to Rodney and Jane Stewart for stuffing the goodie bags the children received after their Christmas program and to Bobby Davison for fixing our light up JOY sign.

Many awesome memories were captured with it after the program. Thanks to all that always step up and help - you are appreciated!

**THANK YOU...**On behalf of my Mom, Betty Hamilton, I want to thank the church for the overwhelming love shown to her on her 95th birthday. She was astonished at the number of cards she received from her church family. She was touched that so many people she knows and loves, but has not seen in some time, reached out to her. Thank you also for your prayers on her behalf. May God bless you.

In Him,  
*Connie Stinnett*



**Our love and sympathy go out to:** The Family of Esther Waner

**Hospitalized at this time:** Linda Cameron (Tulsa ICU), Karen Yancey (Mercy OKC).

**Preparing for surgery:** Sarah Anderson (12/14), Dennis Lynch (12/15), Basil Belveal (12/15)

**We pray for our church family:** Joann LeGrande, Lloyd & Caroline Roettger, Dorothy Smith, Barbara Wilder, Ron Fields, Larry Stinchcomb, Joan Dreessen, Karen Yancey, Sherry Canning, Debbie Considine, Mike Carey, Dorothy Herbert

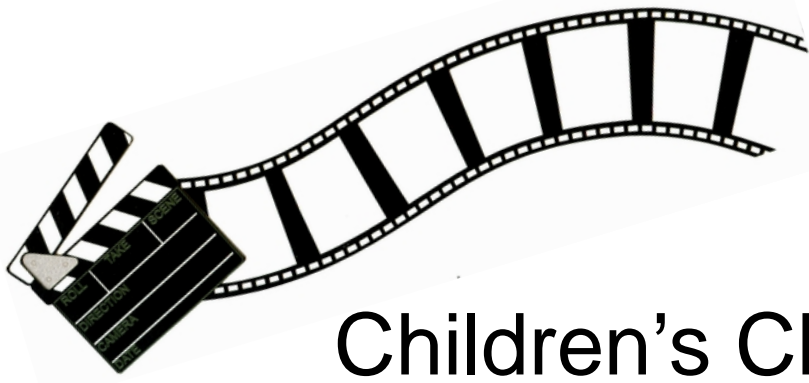
**We pray for our friends:**

Inez Dodson, Loc Le, Kim Le, Brooklyn VanGroll, Geraldine Henderson, Family of Nelda Campbell, Aaron Smith, 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

**Do All the Good You CAN!**

Only a few more weeks left to bring your Aluminum Cans for our "Do All the Good You Can" campaign. You can leave sacks by the building near the church vans! Final pickup will be at the end of December!



# A Reel Christmas

## Children's Christmas Musical



Thank You  
for a Great  
Performance!

Sunday evening's Christmas Program was just the perfect addition to this season of Advent! The kids did a great job presenting the true meaning of Christmas in their production of "Reel Christmas". We are so proud of the kids and their work for this show! It was so fun to watch! Thanks to Shana Bench and Staci Carey for developing and directing the show, Michelle Gill for the set decorations, Deanna Davenport and Amanda Shults for helping each week with the practices! We had a great crew of youth helpers too! Our connections team put together all of the to-go treat bags that went home with each of the kids to help celebrate their hard work!





FCC Guthrie

**Week 2 Incarnation – The Deliverer’s Title: Savior**  
**Scripture: Matthew 1:20b-21 Luke 2:8-12**

**MONDAY God: “There is no savior besides me” Isaiah 43:5-11, Isaiah 52:6-10**

In the violent world of the Middle East, Israel’s first concept of God as Savior tended to be military and political. Their tradition said that Moses and the Israelites sang about God as savior after Egypt’s army drowned in the Red Sea (cf. Exodus 15:1-3). Similarly, the Israelites had a powerful sense of God as savior when they were allowed to return to their land after decades in exile in Babylon.

- Egypt was the dominant world “superpower” when Moses led the Israelite exodus to freedom. Persia had overthrown Babylon, and dominated the scene when they let Israel return after the exile. And Rome seemed unassailable when Jesus’ followers spread out to preach the good news. Do you believe God is still more able to save than any world superpower today (cf. Psalm 2)? How does God’s power operate differently than human political and military power?
- Before the exile, Israel had turned to a variety of alliances and kingly maneuvers to try to carve out their own place in the world. Isaiah 43:11 spoke strongly to their efforts to fix things for themselves: “I, I am the Lord, and there is no savior besides me.” What are some of the “saviors” people still tend to look to today? How confident are you that the truth Isaiah declared about God as savior is still true?

**Prayer:** Lord God, I see signs of your saving power in history, even though so many rulers at the time missed seeing you. And I see your saving power at work in my life, too. Again today I claim you as my savior. Amen.

**TUESDAY God (the savior) “raised up a mighty savior” Luke 1:67-75, 2:10-11**

Zechariah, John the Baptist’s father, poetically expressed his joy about God’s salvation when the son God promised to him and his wife in their old age was born. But, like most Israelites at the time, he still saw the gift of a savior as release from “our enemies.” A different vision of the meaning of “savior” began to emerge when the baby the angel told the shepherds about didn’t appear to be much of a threat to the Roman occupiers of Palestine.

- Zechariah said, according to Luke, “[God] has raised up a mighty savior for us in his servant David’s house, just as he said through the mouths of his holy prophets long ago. He has brought salvation from our enemies and from the power of all those who hate us.” Does that sound like an accurate description of a baby born

in a stable to a poor young couple? In what ways was it inaccurate? In what ways was it accurate?

- The angel’s announcement to the shepherds included both Jesus’ royal titles, which we studied last week (Christ, the Lord), and the title “savior” made personal (“your savior”). How might those night-shift shepherds have understood the angel declaring such august titles to them? In what ways have you made Jesus, not just savior, but “your savior”?

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, you came quietly, humbly, softly. But as I look back, I realize that not only the whole world, but MY whole world, began to change when you were born. Thank you for coming to be my savior. Amen.

**WEDNESDAY Jesus as Savior from sin (the real enemy) Matthew 1:20-21, Acts 5:27-32**

Most of us know the story: a carpenter named Joseph, engaged to Mary, struggled to believe her story that she was pregnant by the Holy Spirit. He planned to break the engagement quietly. In a dream, an angel told him to believe Mary, and to name the child Jesus (Greek form of Hebrew “Joshua,” meaning “Yahweh is salvation”). Salvation ran much deeper than just the Roman army. This child brought salvation from humanity’s greatest enemy: sin. The earliest Christians echoed that, as they defied the leaders trying to silence them.

- Scholar N. T. Wright wrote that “Matthew sees Jesus as the one who will now complete what the law of Moses pointed to but could not of itself produce. He will rescue his people, not from slavery in Egypt, but from the slavery of sin, the ‘exile’ they have suffered not just in Babylon but in their own hearts and lives.” In what ways has missing God’s path led your heart and life into a kind of “exile”? What are the benefits of letting Jesus save you from that exile?
- Wright also observed that in Acts 5 Peter spoke of Jesus as Savior “because he has broken through the power of death itself and is therefore ready to rescue people not only from that ultimate enemy but from such other enemies, whether sickness, oppression, persecution or imprisonment, as they may face from time to time.” What “enemies” of that sort are you facing? How confident are you that Jesus can ultimately save you from all of them?

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, you came to save us from sin because sin hurts, damages and destroys us. Be my savior today from all that makes me less human, and keep me growing into the person you want me to be. Amen.

#### **THURSDAY What our Savior did for us 2 Timothy 1:8-11; Titus 3:3-6**

God does not save us, the apostles preached, based on any good things we have done. Simply put, they said we couldn't fix the profound problem of humans missing the mark, because we ARE the problem. That's why we needed Jesus, the Savior to do for us what we could never do for ourselves, however good we tried to be. God, they said, saved us through Jesus out of sheer divine grace and mercy.

- It is humbling enough to read that salvation is not based on anything we have done that sometimes we resist that. Is there a point in your past (even your recent past) which you can identify as "foolish, disobedient, deceived," or are you more in the "I've always been a pretty good person" camp? Do people in both groups need God's mercy for rebirth and renewal? When have you most clearly sensed God's mercy toward you?
- We know (though we regularly forget) that Christmas is not really about how much "stuff" we can get, or give. The letter to Titus described salvation as the gift "God poured out upon us generously through Jesus Christ our savior." What helps you, amid all the holiday hoopla, to remember that Jesus the savior is God's ultimate generous "Christmas gift"?

**Prayer:** Lord God, Mary wrapped your ultimate gift to me in cloths and laid him in a manger. Help me to value the gift of Jesus, my savior, as highly as I ought. Amen.

#### **FRIDAY Saved by faith, for a divine purpose Ephesians 2:3-10**

"God is rich in mercy." "You are saved by God's grace." That was vital, said the letter to the Ephesians, but it was not the end of the story; it was just the beginning. God saved us FROM a broken, self-seeking way of life, for a very specific purpose. God's mission, what Jesus called "the kingdom of God," is to restore not just individuals, but this whole broken world to the divine purpose. And God saves us FOR a new life as God's human instruments, joining in God's work to reclaim our broken world.

- John Wesley, Methodist founder, applied the idea that we are "created in Christ Jesus to do good things" to everyday life through the Methodist Church's Second General Rule: "By doing good; by being in every kind merciful after their power; as they have opportunity, doing good of every possible sort, and, as far as possible, to all men." What are one or two "sorts" of goodness you didn't used to practice, but do now as a Christ follower? Use the phrase "doing good of every possible sort" to spark your imagination about new sorts of goodness that might be possible in your life.

- Ephesians 2:10 stated, in a general way, the life purpose of every follower of Jesus. Spend time in prayer and thought. Try to write down, and keep handy, the specific ways in which you live out, and intend to live out, the life purpose laid out for you in Ephesians 2:10.

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, thank you for all that you have saved me from. Guide me day by day into a way of living that honors and carries out the purpose that you saved me for. Amen.

#### **SATURDAY "Now is the day of salvation" Isaiah 25:6-9, 2 Corinthians 5:14-6:2**

The Savior's work comes in three "tenses," so to speak. Jesus saved us, past tense, through his life, death and resurrection. Jesus also saves us, present tense, as we yield ourselves to him each day and join in his mission. And the glorious future hope that God's people have always held is that Jesus will save us when God fully establishes the divine reign, and tears and brokenness are no more.

- Review your own spiritual autobiography. In what ways did you find Jesus' gift of salvation in the past? (If by any chance your answer is, "Not yet," remember that "Now is the day of salvation.") In what ways are you living into the gift of salvation more deeply day by day? (If by any chance you say, "Not much," remember that "Now is the day of salvation.") What additional dimensions of salvation do you look forward to experiencing, both in this life and in the next? (If you can't think of any, remember: "Now ...") Jesus came to be your savior. Be sure you've responded to the apostle's plea: "Be reconciled to God!"

**Prayer:** O God, what mystery and what love there is in the message that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself. Help me set aside any remaining fear, reservation or rebellion, and trust myself fully to your salvation. Amen.

**Family Activity:** Frederick Buechner wrote, "The worst thing is never the last thing." He can say this (and we can, too) because of the hope we have in Jesus Christ as our Savior. As a family, create a collage of hope. Gather some magazines, markers, glue, scissors and a piece of poster board. Look through the magazines and cut out pictures of images that bring hope to your family. Use the markers or crayons to draw pictures and write words that communicate hope. Also, include images and words representing what brings hope to the whole world. Place your collage of hope in your home where everyone can see it or give the collage to someone who needs hope. Pray and give thanks to God for your family and for hope.

# First Christian Church, Guthrie

## Proposed Budget for 2021

	2020 Budget	Proposed 2021 Budget	Proposed Increase/ (Decrease)
<b>Christian Education</b>			
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
<b>Total Christian Education</b>	<b>6,200.00</b>	<b>6,200.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Christian Outreach</b>			
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
<b>Total Christian Outreach</b>	<b>19,350.00</b>	<b>19,350.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Connections</b>			
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
<b>Total Connections</b>	<b>2,950.00</b>	<b>3,050.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>

	<b>2020 Budget</b>	<b>Proposed 2021 Budget</b>	<b>Proposed Increase/ (Decrease)</b>
<b>Personnel</b>			
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>
<b>Property</b>			
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
<b>Total Property</b>	<u>56,850.00</u>	<u>56,850.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<b>Stewardship</b>			
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
<b>Total Stewardship</b>	<u>8,900.00</u>	<u>8,900.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<b>Worship</b>			
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
<b>Total Worship</b>	<u>2,475.00</u>	<u>3,948.00</u>	<u>1,473.00</u>
<b>TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET</b>	<b>344,189.50</b>	<b>343,822.50</b>	<b>(367.00)</b>