

### Capital Campaign

Our goal is **\$200,000** by March 2023. This will pay for the boiler replacement and help us replenish funds for future capital improvements.

**Funds received to date:**

## \$174,490

11/27 Worship Attendance: 157      Average Attendance for November: 158

### Upcoming Events for Everyone

What an awesome Turkey Bingo turnout! We had so many guests join us and had a great evening of fellowship! Thank you to everyone who helped make it a success!

Next Sun., Dec. 4, Connections will be hosting the **Tasting Party** after the Children's Christmas Program. We would ask that all families attending bring a holiday snack to share as this is always a super fun event!

Mark your calendars for the annual **Chili Cookoff** on Jan. 8 after church! Our next Connections Team meeting will be Feb. 7 in the Choir Room. Come join us if you would like to join in helping plan some fun events!

Jana Frey, Connections Team Leader

### End of Year Gifts

As a reminder – all year-end gifts must be received or postmarked by December 31, 2022 to be credited on your 2022 giving statement. Giving statements will be mailed by January 31, 2023 for all total donations over \$25.

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 RONNIE FIELDS, Sr. Pastor  
 KAREN ALLEN, Associate Minister



# The Tie That Binds

First Christian Church, Guthrie

405-282-4080

[www.fccguthrie.org](http://www.fccguthrie.org)



First Christian Church of Guthrie

Sharing Christ  
 Growing in Faith

November 30, 2022



Volume 58, No. 11

## Notes from Pastor Ronnie

As we enter into the holiday season, we are all mapping out our Christmas party, program, shopping, family, and travel arrangements and calendar. The temptation to get lost in the activities and to minimize the importance of what we are celebrating is ever present. Be sure to take time daily to stop and remember what is at the heart of Christmas. Spending just a few minutes a day to reflect and remember who Christ is and what Christ did for you will help to bring everything into perspective. And I suspect if we all do this, the activities will not seem as important and we may have a less stressful December.

*Ronnie*



## Christmas @ FCC

- ★ Dec. 3 – Women's "Christmas in the Country" event @ 10 a.m.
- ★ Dec. 4 – Stocking Gifts Due, Children's Christmas Program & Tasting Party @ 6:30 (with a special visitor) 
- ★ Dec. 11 – "A Child Is Born" Choir Cantata during worship, Youth Stocking Shopping Outing @ 11:30 a.m.
- ★ Dec. 17 – "Adult" Christmas Party for 30-50 year olds @ 6 p.m. @ Guthrie Golf & Country Club
- ★ Dec. 18 – Congregational Meeting following worship, Youth Party @ 11:30 a.m., Staff Christmas Party @ 6 p.m.
- ★ Dec. 19 – Young Adult Christmas Party @ 6 p.m., 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grader "Grinch" Party @ 6 p.m.
- ★ Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Service @ 5 p.m. (nursery provided)
- ★ Dec. 25 – Christmas Day Worship Service @ 10:30 a.m. – Come as you are!
- ★ Jan. 1 – New Year's Day Brunch & Carols @ 9:45 a.m.



Can you believe FCC Guthrie has been putting on a Children's Christmas Program for 51 years? This year's show was inspired by 2 of our 6<sup>th</sup> graders who thought it would be fun to celebrate the long tradition of amazing Christmas Programs. We would love for you to join us in-person or via livestream the night of the show!

[www.fccguthrie.org](http://www.fccguthrie.org)

"First Christian Church of Guthrie"  
on Facebook

**Merry Christmas!**



# Keeping Up With Karen



The hearts of people at FCC are certainly huge! Last week, we launched our annual Stocking Drive for Guthrie Public Schools with nearly 200 students on the list. Within a week ALL of the students were adopted and we even have a few extra adoptions if needs arise. THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

This program has been a staple of FCC for 11 years. It has morphed and changed a little over the years as we see different needs arise, but it continues to bless so many. Over the years, we have become more strategic in partnering with other agencies in town so that we can all benefit the most people possible during the holiday season. I am thankful to serve a church that thinks beyond themselves in so many different ways.

As you can imagine we have many special services and opportunities during the Advent season for you to participate in and embrace the season of celebrating Christ's birth. In my morning devotional from "Illuminate – An Advent Series" it spoke to the idea that happiness is not the goal this season but rather it is to find true joy! It said "joy gladdens the spirit while happiness gladdens the flesh." I love that wording as it is a key reminder that the goal isn't to just make people happy or seek happiness but rather to find true joy, which is much deeper. Joy isn't easily shaken and it reminds us that despite whatever trial or tribulation you might be going through, God is with you. It's "unshakable joy!"

I hope as you go through the season, whether it's the "best time of the year" for you or the "most difficult time of the year" you will take a moment to refocus and rest on what the season truly is and share it with someone. We celebrate Christmas, not to exchange gifts, make fancy food and decorate but rather to be reminded that God sent his Son to earth to live and dwell among us with the full knowledge that He would eventually give His life for us so that we can have a hope and a joy that is unending.

If you are having difficulty focusing on that this season, I invite you to join our You Version Bible studies, where a group of nearly 70 people are invited to read God's word together each day with a short devotion and scriptures. At the end of each devotion, you are welcome to share your insights and thoughts, or just enjoy what others are commenting. It is a wonderful way to center and refocus daily.

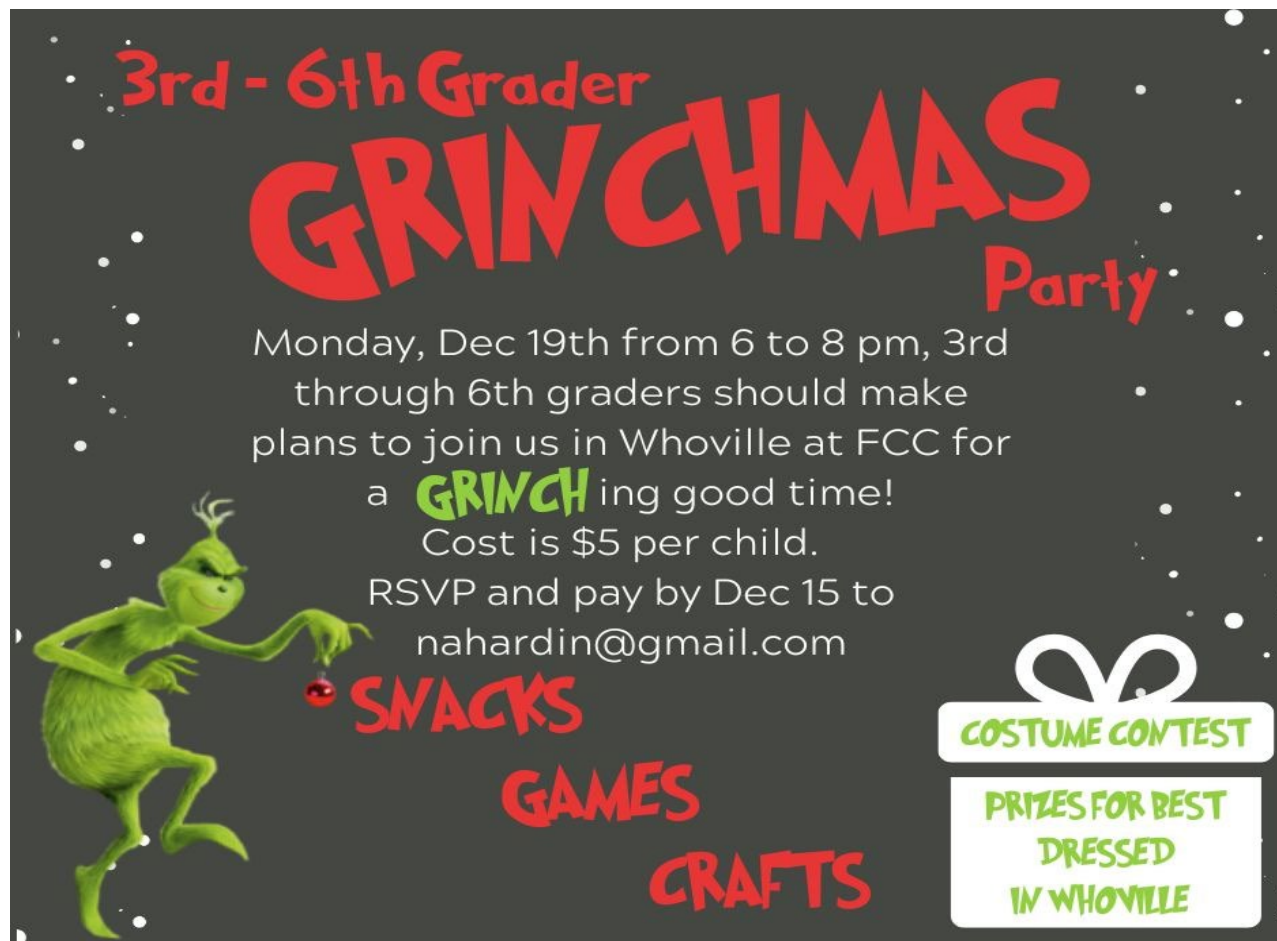
If you want more info on joining the You Version studies, you can reach out to me at 405-615-2240 via text or call, or e-mail me at [karenkallen@cox.net](mailto:karenkallen@cox.net). It's simple to join by downloading the You Version app and setting up an account. Once your account is set up, send me a "friend" request and I will begin inviting you to the studies. We have a published list of the studies we are doing together in the News & Events each week.

I pray you have a wonderful advent season and as we join together in worship on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, I hope you truly find joy in what this season brings.

We will worship together at 5 p.m. on Christmas Eve and at 10:30 a.m. on Christmas Day! We are encouraging everyone to "come as you are" on Christmas Day and we will enjoy some carols and an abbreviated service.

May you and yours have a very Merry Christmas!

*Karen*



Thank you to all of the kids who participated in the Hanging of the Greens service this past Sunday. They did an awesome job and were so ready to help make the service unique. It was a wonderful way to begin to prepare our hearts for the season of Advent.

Hopefully you've had a chance to either pick up a printed copy or check out the Family Advent Guide on the Kids@FCC Guthrie Facebook group. For Week 1, we focus our readings on Mary and Joseph (Luke 1:26:38 and Matthew 1:28-35). Stop by the Kid's Check-In Station in the entry way for a printed copy or check out the Facebook group for the digital version.





# “Adult” 30-50 year olds Christmas Party

For everyone born between 1970 & 1990-ish!

Saturday, Dec. 17 6 p.m.

Guthrie Golf & Country Club



Food & Water/Tea provided

“Beverages” available

Bring a “white elephant” gift (\$25 max)  
for those who want to participate

RSVP to the church office



# Celebrate!

## December Birthdays!

- |                      |                       |                     |
|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 – Betsy Ball       | 12 – Gracelyn Hubbard | 21 – Tanner Ball    |
| LaHonda Ball         | Lakyn Smith           | Hollie Mitchell     |
| Tammy Severson       | Jane Weeks            | 23 – Krista Smith   |
| 3 – Harper Valentin  | 14 – Callen Hardin    | 24 – JoAnn LeGrande |
| 4 – Chalk Beeson     | Ava Smith             | 25 – Sophia Hood    |
| Darl Doles           | 15 – Dale Frey        | Deannie Young       |
| Keith Young          | Easton Plagg          | 27 – Tyler Davison  |
| 5 – Robert Dewart    | 16 – Mekaila Carey    | Tommy Payne         |
| 6 – Maxine Ball      | Neely Carey           | Denise Shoun        |
| 7 – Frances Macrory  | Lori Payne            | 29 – Cynthia Baker  |
| Juanita Plagg        | Alexis Severson       | 30 – Kyndal Carey   |
| 9 – Abigail Johnston | 18 – Kim Betchan      |                     |
| Kellen O’Connell     | Alan Schroeder        |                     |
| 11 – Jerry Caughman  | 19 – Kendall Shults   |                     |
| Jordan Zellers       |                       |                     |

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- |                           |                              |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| 4 – Justin & Lindsay Mays | 24 – Eldon & Shirley Waner   |
| 6 – Ryan & Julie Wiss     | 27 – Bob & Sharon Davis      |
| 7 – Hank & Debbie Hubbard | 28 – Charlie & Maxine Ball   |
| 14 – Jim & Terri McNulty  | 29 – Andrew & Natalie Hardin |
| 17 – David & Ellie Ball   | 31 – Bill & Jessica McLain   |
| Kelly & Debbie Considine  | Nick & Shana Bench           |



**fccYOUTH** finished up our Thank You Notes series with a round of food, fighting that is... who isn't thankful for throwing leftovers at each other, not just in the trash? We begin the Advent season with the "Wishlist" series - we will earn wishlist prizes for completing challenges and participating in activities. Contact Staci for details!

**YOUTH** activities so... make your list and check it twice (aka: mark your calendar & don't forget )

**Sun. Dec 11th 11:30 am - 3:30 pm** = *Wishlist shopping!* Bring \$5 for lunch at Raising Cane's.

**Sun. Dec 18th 11:30 am - 1:30 pm** = *Wishlist party...* games, pizza & live Nativity!

## Prayer Requests

**We pray for our church family:** Stacey Johnston, Shana Bench, Deanna Case, Susan Davison, Dennis Ochs, Kameron Hopper, Natalie Hardin, Patsy Crick, Kim Crick, Dennis Lynch, Velma Cox, Steve Ochs, Mickey Eckley, George Dreessen, Gerald Whitfield, Denise Shoun, Carl Biggs, Joan Dreessen

**We pray for our friends and family members:** Charlotte Cascio, Bob Case, Jean Moses, Renley Ranck, Wes Weir, Wayne Simmons, Bill Seals, Eddie Tomlinson, Rae Lynn Lovelace, Phil Pingel, Pearl Speer, Shelly Jordan, Barry Resecker, Shane and Renee Leathers, Larry Nagel, James Stowe, Karen Nemecek, Karen Aukwell, Ed & Katherine Walton, Marty Stamp, Bradley Wilson, Joyce Brandes, Treva Seals






**Our military all over the world:** Sonny Crick, Court Machtolff, Bonnie Epperson, Jonah Friese, Garret Canning, T.J. Wilson, Matt Byce, Braxton Canning



# First Christian Church

402 E. Noble, Guthrie, OK 73044

# DECEMBER 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><u>Repeating Sunday Events: (unless otherwise indicated)</u> 10:30 a.m. Worship Service</p> <p><b>**Kid's Worship for 4 yrs – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade every Sunday during worship</b></p> <p><b>**Kid's Worship Extra for 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders on the 2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays</b></p>	<p>Office: fccguthrie@coxinet.net Rev. Ronnie Fields: ronnie@coxinet.net Karen: Karenkallen@cox.net Shana: Shanabench@coxinet.net Natalie: nahardin@gmail.com Staci: carey.staci@yahoo.com Michelle: michelle.m.gill@live.com Michael: mrjohnson139@gmail.com</p>			<p><b>1</b> 8:30 a.m. – Mother's Day Out</p>	<p><b>2</b>  Church Office Closed</p>	<p><b>3</b>  10 a.m. – Christmas in the Country @ Janie Carey's home – event is full</p> <p>1 p.m. – Reception Hall booked for private event</p>
<p><b>4</b> Week 2 of Advent – PEACE</p> <p>11:30 a.m. – Lunch &amp; Learn 11:30 a.m. – Children's Christmas Program Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. – "The Best Christmas Program Ever" &amp; Tasting Party</p>	<b>5</b>	<p><b>6</b> 8:30 a.m. – Mother's Day Out</p> <p>3:30 p.m. – Campfire 6 p.m. – Girl Scout Leaders Meeting 6:30 p.m. – Bible Study</p>	<p><b>7</b>  7 p.m. – Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>8</b> 8:30 a.m. – Mother's Day Out</p>	<p><b>9</b>  Church Office Closed</p>	<p><b>10</b>  4 p.m. – Reception Hall booked for private event</p>
<p><b>11</b> Week 3 of Advent – JOY</p> <p>Choir Cantata during worship 11:30 a.m. – Youth Outing</p>	<b>12</b>	<p><b>13</b> 8:30 a.m. – Mother's Day Out</p> <p>3:30 p.m. – Campfire 6 p.m. – Girl Scout Meeting 6:30 p.m. – Bible Study</p>	<p><b>14</b>  6 p.m. – Elders Meeting 7 p.m. – Board Meeting</p>	<p><b>15</b> 8:30 a.m. – Mother's Day Out</p>	<p><b>16</b>  Church Office Closed</p>	<p><b>17</b>  6 p.m. – "Adult" Christmas Party @ Guthrie Golf &amp; Country Club</p>
<p><b>18</b> DONUT SUNDAY  Week 4 of Advent – LOVE Congregational Meeting following worship 11:30 a.m. – Youth Meeting 6 p.m. – Staff Christmas Party</p>	<p><b>19</b> 11 a.m. – Staff Meeting</p> <p>Newsletter articles due to church office by NOON</p> <p>6 p.m. – Young Adult Christmas Party 6 p.m. – 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grader Party ←</p>	<p><b>20</b> Newsletter mailed</p> <p>NO Mother's Day Out 6:30 p.m. – Bible Study</p>	Guthrie Public Schools Christmas Break			<p><b>24</b>  5 p.m. – Christmas Eve Service (nursery provided)</p>
<p><b>25</b>  10:30 a.m. – Christmas Day Worship service – "Come As You Are"</p> <p>Loose Change Offering for Food Banks &amp; Diapers</p>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<p><b>30</b>  Church Office Closed</p>	<p><b>31</b> </p>