



NEWS & EVENTS

First Christian Church, Guthrie

405-282-4080

www.fccguthrie.org

Sharing Christ



First Christian Church of Guthrie

Growing in Faith

#FCCallin



February 28, 2023

A Note from Pastor Ronnie



As I continue to prepare for sabbatical, I wanted to share a few statistics with you, not to garner sympathy, but to help all of us understand the importance and benefits of a sabbatical. The average length a pastor serves a church is 4 years. 1500 pastors leave ministry every month, some never return to a church. Only 50% of pastors make it beyond their first 5 years in ministry and only 10% of pastors make it all the way to retirement serving the church. In addition, 42% of clergy seriously considered leaving ministry in the last year. Only 33% of pastors report having a healthy marriage. Ministry can really take it's toll, but regular sabbaticals and rest can prevent that. I am thankful for the opportunity provided by First Christian and it's leadership to allow me the opportunity for a sabbatical.

My sabbatical will consist of 3 elements: personal renewal time, family renewal time, and study time. The first two weeks I will spend at a spiritual retreat center in Colorado Springs, CO. Then I will spend 4-6 weeks working through several online courses that will include direction in Leadership, Church Growth, Online Presence, and Preaching. I will spend the last three weeks on a trip with my family traveling along the eastern coast and up into Canada. I would ask that you pray for my sabbatical in these 3 ways: 1) My retreat time would bring spiritual rest, renewal and growth, 2) My time with family would be enriching, and 3) my study time would benefit the church when I return. If you have questions about sabbatical, please do not hesitate to ask.



Loose Change Offering

We collected \$403.70 for Week of Compassion through our Loose Change offering on Sunday! What a blessing this will be to those in need both locally and around the world! Thank you to all who support our monthly outreach opportunities.



Several of our local Girl Scouts who meet weekly at FCC will be joining us for worship this Sunday. They will be selling cookies before and after worship and will participate in our worship service. We are excited to have the scouts and their families join us!

FCC KID ZONE

Attention **all potential campers**, 2nd grade and up: We will have a short informational meeting about all things summer camp this Sunday after worship! Meet Natalie and Staci in the Parlor on the first floor to discuss camp opportunities as well as youth summer plans. This meeting is for any child who is completing 2nd grade this spring all the way through high school age! It won't be a long meeting, just long enough to give some information about what camp is, where camp is, how much it will cost to attend, and ask any questions you or your child may have about camp. Staci Carey will be there giving information to our kids who will be completing 6th grade this year and moving into our youth group this summer. Please plan to attend the meeting with your child if this is information you are needing to make your summer plans! Camp sign ups are due in about 5 weeks (April 13) so it's time to start planning and registering if your kids would like to go!

3rd - 6th grader Spring Break activity: We will be getting together Tuesday, March 14 at the church for a 3rd - 6th grader Spring Break hang out! From 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., 3rd through 6th graders can get out of the house and join us for some fun at the church! We will have GaGa ball set up, Spike Ball, and our 4-square/volleyball mashup game -- Crossnet -- set up for the kids to play. We'll eat pizza for lunch and then play some capture-the-flag in the church until parent pick up at 1! Kids are welcome to invite their friends too! Cost for this will be \$5 and the deadline for everyone attending to RSVP and pay is Thursday, March 9 by 3 p.m. We need one extra adult volunteer to help supervise this hang out. If you are available to help, please let Natalie Hardin know! If you have questions, would like to volunteer to help with this event, or would like to sign your child up, please email nahardin@gmail.com to save their spot!

DINNER GROUP SIGN-UPS HAPPENING NOW!

Our most recent round of Dinner Groups have been a huge success. Currently, we have four groups meeting led by Diann and Gene Owen, Ronnie Fields, Karen Allen and Stacey and Jamie Johnston. These groups have met in November, December/January and February/March. As they wrap up their February/March dinners, the groups will be dividing and creating new groups and it's a great time to get involved.

What is a Dinner Group?

A dinner group meets once a month for three months. The groups are organized based on what type of group you desire. Some groups eat out each month, others dine at the church as a potluck while others choose to rotate homes. Some groups have children, while others are adult-only and some can even be as narrow as "women only," "men only," "singles," "couples." Basically groups can be whatever we decide to make them and what those attending desire.

How do I get involved?

For the next three Sundays, there will be a sign-up board in the entryway. You can check your preferences for the type of group and write in "best nights" to meet. We will organize groups from this and text/e-mail out your group leader's name and a list of those in the group. Groups will begin meeting in March. You can also text or call Karen at 405-615-2240 to let her know you want to join.

Prayer Requests

We pray for our church family:

George Dreessen, Clara Ketch, Rita Stowe, KC Griffin, Jennifer Bounds, Kameron Hopper, Hank Hubbard, Margaret McNeely, Dennis Ochs, Patsy Crick, Kim Crick, Dennis Lynch, Velma Cox, Steve Ochs, Mickey Eckley, Gerald Whitfield, Denise Shoun, Carl Biggs, Joan Dreessen

We pray for our friends and family members:

Stanley Lear, Matt Simmons, Renee Leathers, Rocky Wilson, Jacob Carey, Travis Woodard, George Gauldin, Janie Cox, Jim Harman, Kathleen Morris, Charlotte Cascio, Eddie Tomlinson, Phil Pingel, Pearl Speer, Barry Resecker, Larry Nagel, James Stowe, Karen Nemecek, Ed & Katherine Walton, Marty Stamp, Bradley Wilson, Joyce Brandes, Treva Seals

Our military all over the world:

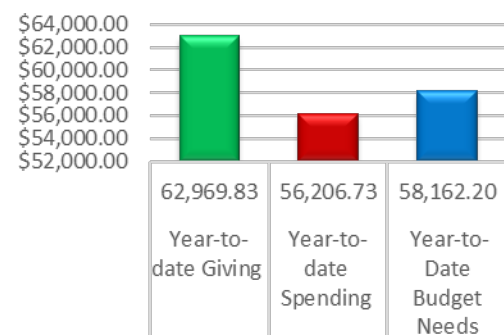
Sonny Crick, Court Machtolff, Bonnie Epperson, Jonah Friese, Garret Canning, T.J. Wilson, Matt Byce, Braxton Canning, Nate Ames

FCC Attendance

Feb. 26 - 159

Feb. Average Attendance – 163

FCC Financial Update



#FCCallin

LUCKY BINGO

Are you feeling LUCKY? Our next Connections event will be held on March 19! We will have donuts for breakfast and Lucky Bingo beginning at 4 p.m. that afternoon! Walking tacos will be served for dinner. You should've received an email from the church office regarding the items needed for our dinner that evening. If you would like, we are also taking cash donations and \$5 gift card donations for prizes. Just make sure to mark them as "Lucky Bingo".

Our next Connections Team meeting will be held on April 4 at 5:30 p.m. in the choir room. Hope to see you there!

Jana Frey

Connections Team Leader



FEBRUARY 22
Noble Avenue Baptist Church

MARCH 1
First Baptist Church, Broad & Springer

MARCH 8
First United Presbyterian Church

MARCH 15
First United Methodist Church

MARCH 22
First Christian Church

MARCH 29
Guthrie Christian Church

APRIL 5
Woodcrest Baptist Church

Lent Lunches

Join the local church community!
11:30AM | see dates & locations

GMA
CUMMINS MINISTRIES ALLIANCE

Interested in joining our church family or being baptized? We would love to have that conversation with you anytime! Feel free to call the church office at 405-282-4080 and visit with Ronnie.

Lunch & Learn is THIS SUNDAY following worship! Sandwiches, chips & cookies will be served while discussing our Lent sermon series "24 Hours That Changed The World."

The Connecting Point



FCC's "Connecting Point" group for the 30-50-somethings met Monday evening for a Cooking Class. Debbie Hubbard shared her famous chili recipe. Janet Hudson demonstrated how to make Mexican Spicy Pickled Veggies, as well as her loaded queso, peach cobbler and pecan cobbler! Pam Williams demonstrated how to do a chips, cracker and jalapeño cornbread charcuterie tray as well as a Catalina Taco Salad and soft tacos. It was delicious and fun to watch the demonstrations. Big thank you to Wayne Elder for putting the event together!

Be on the lookout for our next Connecting Point event – *SINGO!*

RETIRED FELLOWSHIP

Our next scheduled trip is March 28 to the Myriad Gardens and lunch. We will explore the conservatory and enjoy "tulip season," which begins in March. In addition, we will visit the Crystal Bridge, which features botanical gardens, waterfalls, a cloud sculpture, and other terrace features. Cost will be \$13 per person for the tours. We will plan to leave the church at 8:45 a.m. and stay at the gardens until 11:30. We will then go to lunch at Toby Keith's. Lunch will be paid on your own. We will plan to return to Guthrie by 1:30-2 p.m. (depending on how long lunch takes). To sign-up, let Karen know by calling the church office or texting her at 405-615-2240. Also, there will be a sign-up sheet in the entryway on Sundays. Deadline to sign-up is March 19, so we can arrange for tickets (**all tickets must be pre-paid by March 19**).



YOUNG ADULTS OUTING

Our next Young Adult outing for our "20-somethings" will be Monday, March 20. We will be bowling at ShowBiz in Edmond at 6 p.m.

Invite a friend and join us for fellowship & fun!



BRANSON 2023

FCC's 10th Trip to Branson!

"Sightseeing and Shows (and a little shopping)"

Nov. 6-9 (Monday-Thursday)

4 days, 3 nights

- Branson Towers, Branson, Mo. (Continental Breakfast Daily, opens 6:30 a.m.; and nightly ice cream social!)
- Price includes: 6 Shows, 3 dinners, lunch at Lamberts, all breakfasts and transportation included
- Village Tours and Travel Bus line
- Cost is \$810/person (2 guests/room), \$1010/person (single room), \$740/person (triple occupancy room).
- NOTE: "Trip Insurance" is available for \$19.95 per person (Non-Refundable). Trip insurance allows for cancellation up to 72 business hours prior to group's arrival. Any change after 72 hours are non-refundable.

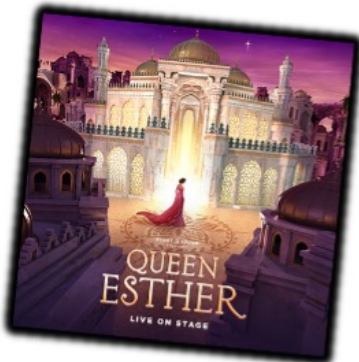


Monday, November 6

- 7:45 a.m. – Depart **First Christian Church**, Guthrie, OK
- noon – **"Cracker Barrel"** Lunch in Joplin (lunch on your own)
- 3 p.m. – Arrive at **"Branson Towers"** Branson
- 4:15 p.m. – **Tanger Outlets Shopping** (will adjust time depending on when we arrive)
- 6:30 p.m. – **Dinner at the Hughes Brothers Theater**
- 8 p.m. – **Hughes Brothers Christmas Show**

Tuesday, November 7

- 10 a.m. — **Top of the Rock Adventure — Cave Tour/Ozark Natural History Museum**
- 12:30 p.m. — **Lunch @ The Landing** (on your own) and shopping
- 3 p.m. — **Hotel Break**
- 5:30 p.m. — **Dolly Parton's Stampede Show and Dinner**
- 8 p.m. — **Presley's Jubilee**



Wednesday, November 8

- 10 a.m. – Group Picture outside hotel
- 10:30 a.m. — **Shopping at The Grand Village Shoppes and Lunch at Mel's Diner** (on your own)
- 2 p.m. — **Texas Tenors at Grand Shanghai Theater**
- 5:15 p.m. — **Grand Country Mall and Buffet Dinner**
- 7:30 p.m. – **Queen Esther at Sight and Sound Theater**

Thursday, November 9

- Shopping at the **Amish Store**
- 10 a.m. – **Clay Cooper's Country Show**
- 12:45 p.m. – Lunch at **Lambert's Café** (included in package)



DEADLINE for RESERVATION AND PAYMENT SCHEDULE:

1st Payment: \$200 Due – July 9 • 2nd Payment: \$200 Due – Aug. 13 • 3rd Payment: \$200 Due – Sept. 17 •

Final Payment Due: Oct. 1

Call Karen Allen @ 282-4080 with questions.

Sabbatical Information

General Questions about a Sabbatical

What is a sabbatical?

The word sabbatical has its roots in the biblical concept of Sabbath (“to rest” or “to cease”). Sabbath keeping is setting aside time that God consecrates and makes holy.

Sabbatical leave is a time for a minister to shift gears in order to rest, study, reflect, and travel in order to return to minister among us refreshed and renewed in body, mind, and spirit. A study component is often included to enrich the ministry currently being served by the minister. (This is not a time for career assessment, or a job search).

Sabbatical is more than a vacation from meetings, budgets, sermons, and people in need. It is a time to receive spiritual nourishment and a change in perspective, to deepen one’s relationship with God, self, and family – a time of spiritual growth. This time can also be seen as a season of growth for the entire congregation.

Do other clergy go on sabbatical?

Yes. Clergy across denominations take sabbaticals. Ministers return from sabbaticals with a sense of refreshment and renewal for ministry. Sabbaticals are a healthy way to prevent clergy burnout and extend the tenure of ministries in local churches.

How did Ronnie taking a sabbatical come about?

When Ronnie was called to serve as minister of First Christian in 2017, the letter of call included a sabbatical of three months following the completion of five years of service to the church. October 2022 was the conclusion of Ronnie’s fifth year as senior minister of the church.

When will Ronnie take his sabbatical in 2023?

He plans to begin his sabbatical following worship on May 7 and return on August 7. The period is for three months. The desire is to take the sabbatical at the least programmatic time of the year.

What will happen during Ronnie's absence?

We have already filled in all Sundays for pulpit supply. The elders in conjunction with Karen will fill in for pastoral care.

How will the sabbatical time be paid for?

The church budgeted for pulpit supply in this year’s budget.

What will Ronnie be doing on his sabbatical?

The sabbatical time will be divided with three purposes

1. Spiritual Renewal Time – time for spiritual reading, deepening of faith, and time to refresh his soul
2. Family Renewal Time – quality time with Shana and Max
3. Study Time – selecting a study plan that will be of benefit to the church’s future; the study component is intended to have a direct import back into the life of First Christian Guthrie

DIG IN to the Word...Bible Study with us!



We have an ongoing group of people who do Bible studies together on the YouVersion Bible app. If you want to join the group and discussion, download the app, send a friend request to Karen Allen and she will invite you to each study.



YouVersion Reading Plan - Lent and beyond					
Date	YouVersion Plan	Length of Plan	Date	YouVersion Plan	Length of Plan
1-Mar	Road to Easter	4 Days	1-Apr	Hope	7 Days
2-Mar	Road to Easter	4 Days	2-Apr	The Miracle of Easter	8 Days
3-Mar	Road to Easter	4 Days	3-Apr	The Miracle of Easter	8 Days
4-Mar	Road to Easter	4 Days	4-Apr	The Miracle of Easter	8 Days
5-Mar	The Messiah Mystery: A Lent Study	7 Days	5-Apr	The Miracle of Easter	8 Days
6-Mar	The Messiah Mystery: A Lent Study	7 Days	6-Apr	The Miracle of Easter	8 Days
7-Mar	The Messiah Mystery: A Lent Study	7 Days	7-Apr	The Miracle of Easter	8 Days
8-Mar	The Messiah Mystery: A Lent Study	7 Days	8-Apr	The Miracle of Easter	8 Days
9-Mar	The Messiah Mystery: A Lent Study	7 Days	9-Apr	The Miracle of Easter	8 Days
10-Mar	The Messiah Mystery: A Lent Study	7 Days	10-Apr	The Light	3 Day
11-Mar	The Messiah Mystery: A Lent Study	7 Days	11-Apr	The Light	3 Day
12-Mar	The Grace Giver	7 Days	12-Apr	The Light	3 Day
13-Mar	The Grace Giver	7 Days	13-Apr	Permission to Doubt	7 Days
14-Mar	The Grace Giver	7 Days	14-Apr	Permission to Doubt	7 Days
15-Mar	The Grace Giver	7 Days	15-Apr	Permission to Doubt	7 Days
16-Mar	The Grace Giver	7 Days	16-Apr	Permission to Doubt	7 Days
17-Mar	The Grace Giver	7 Days	17-Apr	Permission to Doubt	7 Days
18-Mar	The Grace Giver	7 Days	18-Apr	Permission to Doubt	7 Days
19-Mar	Truth for Dark Days	7 Days	19-Apr	Permission to Doubt	7 Days
20-Mar	Truth for Dark Days	7 Days	20-Apr	Choosing Each Day: God or Self	3 Day
21-Mar	Truth for Dark Days	7 Days	21-Apr	Choosing Each Day: God or Self	3 Day
22-Mar	Truth for Dark Days	7 Days	22-Apr	Choosing Each Day: God or Self	3 Day
23-Mar	Truth for Dark Days	7 Days	23-Apr	No Doubt	5 Days
24-Mar	Truth for Dark Days	7 Days	24-Apr	No Doubt	5 Days
25-Mar	Truth for Dark Days	7 Days	25-Apr	No Doubt	5 Days
26-Mar	Hope	7 Days	26-Apr	No Doubt	5 Days
27-Mar	Hope	7 Days	27-Apr	No Doubt	5 Days
28-Mar	Hope	7 Days	28-Apr	Choosing Each Day: God or Self	3 Day
29-Mar	Hope	7 Days	29-Apr	Choosing Each Day: God or Self	3 Day
30-Mar	Hope	7 Days	30-Apr	Choosing Each Day: God or Self	3 Day
31-Mar	Hope	7 Days			

Download the You Version Bible Apple on your Smart Device or go to <https://www.youversion.com/>

If you have an iPhone



App Store

If you have an Android
(all other phones)



Play Store

1. Once you download the app, create a user profile
2. Send a "friend request" to Karen Allen
3. Karen will accept it and begin sending you invites to each study. You can choose to join a study or wait for the next invite.