

FCC Financial Update



11/26 Worship Attendance: 133
Average Attendance for November: 151

#FCCallin

End of Year Gifts

As a reminder – all year-end gifts must be received or postmarked by December 31, 2023 to be credited on your 2023 giving statement. Giving statements will be mailed by January 31, 2024 for all total donations over \$25.

Loose Change Offering for Hope House totaled \$166.79! We will combine this with our budgeted Outreach donation and hopefully provide enough money for Hope House to purchase the bounce house they've been wanting for the kids at the facility!

Congregation Meeting to be held Sunday, Dec. 17 following worship



The Tie That Binds

First Christian Church, Guthrie

405-282-4080 www.fccguthrie.org

First Christian Church of Guthrie

Sharing Christ

Growing in Faith

November 28, 2023



Volume 59, No. 11

A Note from Pastor Ronnie

Join us for a season of comfort and celebration!



This holiday season, our church warmly invites you to two special events, each designed to embrace the spirit of Christmas in unique ways.

Starting Dec. 10, we're excited to present "Christmas at the Movies," a one-of-a-kind sermon series. Each Sunday, we'll explore themes of faith, hope, and love through the lens of classic Christmas movies. There might even be some surprises along the way! This series is perfect for families, movie enthusiasts, and anyone looking to rediscover the joy of the holiday season. We will be using Polar Express, Home Alone, Elf, and Christmas Carol! (I was going to use Die Hard, but got outvoted.)

Join us Thurs., Dec. 21 at 6 p.m. for our "Blue Christmas" worship, a service tailored for those who find the holidays challenging. Whether you're coping with loss, loneliness, or simply seeking peace, this service offers a comforting blend of hymns, prayers, and messages of hope. It's a time to find solace and companionship in the warmth of our church family.

We invite you, your friends, family, and neighbors to join us in these heartwarming celebrations. Together, let's share in the comfort and joy of this special time of year.

See you there!

Ronnie



First Christian Church
402 East Noble Avenue
Guthrie, Oklahoma 73044

www.fccguthrie.org

(405) 282-4080

RONNIE FIELDS, Sr. Pastor

KAREN ALLEN, Associate Minister



Kid Min Minute

Keeping Up With Karen



WHAT KID MIN IS
LEARNING IN:

DECEMBER



Grab your sandals, sunblock, and swim gear because it's time for a Christmas Vacation! We'll be making sand angels and roasting chestnuts around an open bonfire on our tropical getaway. You've never experienced Christmas like this! In this five-week series, we'll focus on the birth of Jesus and the way God had been planning things from the very beginning. We'll see how **God sent Jesus for a reason**, learn to **trust God's timing**, understand why **God gives us what's best**, and see how **Jesus is why we celebrate** because **Jesus is God's gift to the world**.

To find out more,
scan this code!



Authentic — when you think of that word, what comes to mind? This morning, I was reading a story about the Merriam-Webster Dictionary's "Word of the Year" for 2023. The decision for the "Word of the Year" is partially based on the number of times people do online "word searches" for a certain word throughout the previous year. The dictionary defines "authentic" as "not false or imitation" and "true to one's own personality, spirit, or character" and a synonym of "real" and "actual." It is suspected that the rise in the search of the word "authentic" is due to Artificial Intelligence (AI) and social media searches that cause people to wonder if what they are seeing is true or real. The word "deepfakes" was a close second. "Deepfakes" are images and videos that appear real but are generated by AI.

It was intriguing to learn that "authentic" is what has been on people's radar throughout the last year. I couldn't help but immediately think of how this is so relevant to what we should be doing as a church. Our world is full of things that try to distract or cause us to lose focus on being Christians. I feel like so many people are seeking what is truthful, authentic and real. I can't think of a more relevant time to share the news of Jesus Christ — a message that is full of truth, authenticity and is real. As scripture says *"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever."* (Hebrew 13:8)

As we enter the Christmas season, I hope that you will reflect on how authentic your reflection of Christ is and are your actions and words drawing others closer to Christ? Whether we are being a keyboard warrior and commenting online or just walking through the grocery store or downtown Guthrie, does our spirit or actions line up with the One we serve. I often find myself asking "what would Jesus do" and more often than not, these days I find myself asking "what would Jesus say" or "not say." Our faith calls us to use words that are less harsh, to have actions that are servant-driven, and to notice the unnoticed.

This Christmas, I pray that we will take time to be "authentic" in how we are sharing the Christmas story. I pray that we can be a light to others and lead people to the manger where they will find the unexpected, unending love of a God who was willing to send His only Son to save us.

We have so many opportunities to be a part of giving and sharing throughout the Advent season. The newsletter is full of activities and what I would encourage you to do is to find the things that will bring you and your family joy as well as the things that will allow you to bless others. One of the sayings we focus on as a church staff is "full hearts, not full calendars." I hope you are feeling that as you look through the events at church and find what fills your heart!

This Advent season we will be asking for your help as we light the candles each week during worship. Instead of the traditional readings, each week we will be posting and e-mailing out a question that is reflective of the candle we will be lighting on Sunday. For example, this week's candle focuses on **Hope!** We will ask you to reflect on "What does Hope mean to you?" We will read some of the responses during the lighting of the Advent Candle during worship and reflect on how hope is seen in the world today and what scripture says about hope. Please take a minute to respond to these questions and spend some time reflecting on each week's candle.

I pray you have a wonderful Advent season and in doing so are reminded of what it means to be "authentic" in sharing the greatest story ever — "Today, in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." (Luke 2:11-12)

Peace and Love, *Karen*

YOUTH NEWS

Sunday, 12/3 Worship 10:30 am YOUTH EXTRA + 11:30am-2pm ANGEL TREE shopping (\$5 for lunch!)
 Sunday, 12/10 Worship 10:30 am – Polar Express! 11:30am-12:30pm Angel Tree wrap-up
 Wednesday, 12/13 Youth Nights 6pm – 7:30 pm

GATHER

GROW

Joshua 5:13-6:25; Psalm 100

Welcome to the final lap of the Promised Land Grand Prix! Will the Israelites win and take the land as their grand prize? Let's see if they stay *On the Right Track* to victory! Ready, set, go!

If you want to race into this story, try these questions...

- What did God tell Joshua to do in order to defeat Jericho? (March around the city for six days with seven priests carrying trumpets. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times.)
- Who was the only family saved from Jericho? Why? (Rahab's, because she had faith in God and helped the Israelite spies in the past.)
- Why do you think God told the people to walk around the city for seven days? (To show obedience to God.)
- Read Psalm 100:5. What does this verse tell us about how long we can have victory with God? (Forever!)
- What are some things this psalm invites us to do? (Shout for joy, worship, sing, and give thanks. These are all things we might do when we are celebrating a big win, for example.)

PIT STOP (Weekly challenge): Every racer needs to take a pit stop to stop and refuel. Ask yourself: Everyone loves to win. Is winning the same as a victory?

•Almost... when you win, you get first place and come home with a prize. But if you want victory, you can win even if you don't get first place because victory is about finishing well, being a good sport, and staying true to the person God made you to be. As followers of God, we can always have victory!

•What are some small wins you've had recently?

•What was a time that a loss was actually a victory for you?

PRAYER: God, thank you for giving us victory! We understand that having victory doesn't always mean we will win, but we know that is not as important as knowing you and obeying you. Help us to have the kinds of victories that matter most because we trust you know what is best for us. Amen

This Sunday is our
 Hanging of the Greens
 and Christmas Cantata!
 Join us at 10:30 a.m.



Sunday, December 3 10:30 a.m.

Calling all 30-50 year olds!
 Our 2nd annual FCC
**Connecting Point
 Christmas Party** will be
 held Dec. 16 at 7 p.m. at
 "The Filling Station." Bring a
 \$20 gift for the gift
 exchange, your own
 beverages and lawn
 chair! Invite a friend and
 join us for a great night of
 fellowship and fun!



Thank you to Zach, John & Karen Allen for the awesome firetruck "float" for the Christmas Parade. Unfortunately, the parade was canceled due to the crazy weather, but Zach still enjoyed driving around town and promoting FCC!



GIVE

Sunday, 12/3 Reading Scripture = Hallie;
 Serving = Blake & Zach
 11:30 am – 2 pm ANGEL TREE shopping –
 bring \$5 for lunch!

Sunday, 12/10 Reading Scripture = Bella;
 Serving = Ally & Anna
 11:30am – 12:30pm = Angel Tree wrap-up

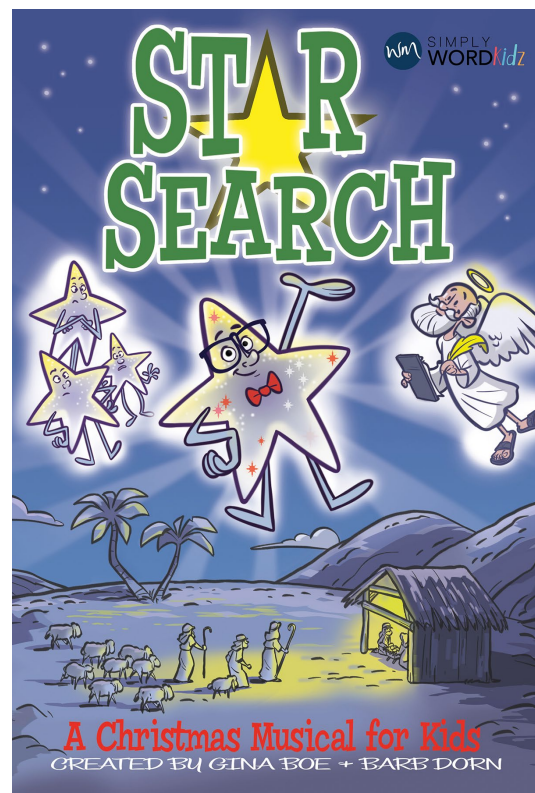
Youth Live Nativity

Dec. 13

on the front lawn of FCC

6 – 7 p.m.





FCC Annual Children's Christmas Musical

★ December 9 ★
6:30 p.m.

Holiday Tasting Party to follow! Bring a treat to share and enjoy a wonderful night of fun!

SUPER COOL POOL PARTY

Who:
3rd-6th graders & Youth

When:
Dec 19th 6-9 pm

What: Join us for a nice, relaxing, beautiful evening at the pool! Ok, not so much on the actual pool part but this Super Cool Pool Party is going to be the perfect way to have some summertime fun - even if we are in the middle of winter! While we can't provide sunshine or warm weather, this super cool pool party is going to be just as much fun -- just without the water!

Cost is \$5 and friends are welcome! RSVP to let us know your coming and give us your shirt size. Payment and RSVPs are due by Dec 14th so we can get all of pool party supplies ordered in time! We will be playing games, trying out a cool twist on tie-dying t-shirts and eating pizza for dinner! We will not be ordering extra shirts so make sure to sign up and pay your \$5 to attend!

1ST SUNDAYS!

Lunch & Fellowship

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
3	4					
10	1					

\$5 per person
\$20 max per family

*Sit with others not in your family group
Talking points & ice breakers at each table*

MENU

Taco Bar
Drinks
Dessert

FCC Board Meeting this Sunday following worship. We will meet in the Choir Room.

Guthrie Ministerial Alliance is seeking **host families for Guthrie Job Corp students** who will be staying at the facility during the holidays instead of being able to go home to be with families. We are seeking families that would be willing to have a student enjoy Christmas dinner (could be Christmas Day or Christmas Eve). We are also hoping to have families that would sponsor these same students with a \$25-\$30 gift. Those hosting are not expected to provide the gift.

December @ FCC

Dec. 2 - Choir Rehearsal 9 a.m.
Dec. 3 - Hanging of the Greens & Choir Cantata
Dec. 3 - Board Meeting following worship
Dec. 3 - 1st Sunday Lunch
Dec. 3 - Youth Angel Tree Shopping
Dec. 9 - Christmas in the Country (event is full)
Dec. 10 - Christmas at the Movies begins
Dec. 10 - Children's Christmas Program 6:30 p.m.
Dec. 13 - Youth Live Nativity 6 - 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 13 - Elders Meeting 6 p.m.
Dec. 16 - Connecting Point Party 7 p.m.
Dec. 17 - Donut Sunday
Dec. 17 - Congregational Meeting
Dec. 17 - Worship Team Meeting
Dec. 17 - Cookies & Caroling (TBA)
Dec. 19 - 3rd-12th Grader Party 6 - 9 p.m.
Dec. 21 - Blue Christmas Service 6 p.m.
Dec. 24 - Loose Change Offering
Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Service 5 p.m.
Dec. 25 - Dec. 29 - Church Office Closed
Dec. 31 - New Year's Eve Breakfast 9:30 a.m.
 & Worship 10:30 a.m.

Merry Christmas!

'Tis the
SEASON
to be
Jolly

Celebrate!

December Birthdays!

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| 1 – Betsy Ball
LaHonda Ball
Tammy Severson | 12 – Gracelyn Hubbard
Lakyn Smith
Jane Weeks | 21 – Tanner Ball
Hollie Mitchell
Lydia Gates |
| 3 – Harper Valentin | 14 – Callen Hardin
Ava Smith | 23 – Krista Smith |
| 4 – Chalk Beeson
Darl Doles
Keith Young | 15 – Dale Frey
Easton Plagg | 25 – Sophia Hood
Deannie Young |
| 5 – Robert Dewart | 16 – Mekaila Wilhelm
Neely Carey | 27 – Tyler Davison
Tommy Payne |
| 6 – Maxine Ball | Lori Payne
Alexis Severson | Denise Shoun
Trygve Anderson |
| 7 – Frances Macrory
Juanita Plagg | 18 – Kim Betchan
Alan Schroeder | 29 – Cynthia Baker |
| 9 – Abigail Johnston
Kellen O'Connell | 19 – Kendall Shults | 30 – Kyndal Carey |
| 11 – Jerry Caughman
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
Kelly & Debbie Considine | 31 – Bill & Jessica McLain
Nick & Shana Bench
Trygve & Courtney Anderson |

Connections Team Updates!

You won't want to miss being a part of any committee during this wonderful time of the year! The Connections Team invites you to be a part of our committee! We will have our **next meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 28 at 5:30 p.m.** in the choir room. We will be discussing all of the events coming up during the next couple of months. Please plan to join us if you are looking for a committee to get involved with! Get a start on a New Year's Resolution on being more involved with your church! A couple of our events coming up are the next **1st Sunday meal** which will be on Dec. 3. Join us that day for a taco pile-up after church! It takes a crew to put these meals on so we would love to have your help! Please stop by our meeting or reach out to me if you would like to help with these meals.

Also, **Christmas in the Country** will be Dec. 9 from 10 a.m. - noon at the home of Mike and Janie Carey. This event is by registration-only and we are currently full! Connections will also be hosting the tasting party after the **children's Christmas program** on December 10. We are asking everyone to bring a festive snack to share for afterward. One last event I know you've all been waiting for...the annual **FCC Chili Cookoff!** This event will be on Jan. 7! Start practicing your winning recipes now! See you at the meeting on Tuesday!

Jana Frey
 Connections Team Leader

Prayer Requests

We pray for our church family: The family of Clara Ketch (services 11/29 at 1 p.m. at Mulhall Christian), Glennette Meredith, Bill Bowles, Keith Young, Gerald Whitfield, Rodney Stewart, Jake Doles, Joan Dreesen, Diana Dewart, Jennifer Bounds, Gene Owen, Denise Shoun, Annette Keller, Lydia Gates, Marie Lynch, Dennis Lynch, Steve Ochs, Carl Biggs

Our church family currently in assisted living or the nursing home: Mickley Eckley, Dorothy Smith, Bonnie Reynolds, Cynthia Baker

We pray for our friends and family members: Barb & Kara Sawyer, Renee Leathers, Crystal Grilley, Don Channel, Mike Brown, John Timmons, Linda Beedle, Charlotte Cascio, Darrald Kizzia, Bradley Butt, Teal Esmeyer, Hendrix Beutler, Tonya Stansbury, Dennis and Norma Kelley, Mike London, Sam Porter, James Stowe, Mike Bell, Jodie Flurry, JD Inda, Woody Green, Gary Kragh, Blake Alaniz, Tonya Dawn McCulloch, David Brown, Susie Ellison, Mary Wheeler, Penelope Ivey, Teresa May, Elsie Steinbeck, Ed & Katherine Walton

And our military all over the world: Sonny Crick, Court Machtloff, Bonnie Epperson, Jonah Friese, Garret Canning, T.J. Wilson, Matt Byce, Braxton Canning, Nate Ames