

# NEWS & EVENTS

First Christian Church, Guthrie

405-282-4080    [www.fccguthrie.org](http://www.fccguthrie.org)

Sharing Christ     First Christian Church of Guthrie

Growing in Faith    #FCCallin     December 12, 2023



This Sunday is **DONUT SUNDAY!**

Wear your “casual/comfy” clothes for our

**HOME ALONE** “Christmas at the Movies” sermon

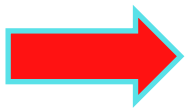
and join us at 10 a.m. for donuts, followed by worship at 10:30!

There will be a **brief Congregational Meeting** this Sunday following worship to approve the 2024 Budget.

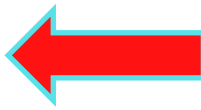


This Sunday, we would love to have you join us for **Cookies and Caroling!** We will be leaving the church at 1:30 p.m. to go caroling to some of our shut-ins and those who need a little Christmas cheer. We still need a few drivers who can help us carpool. We will split up into three different routes around Guthrie and plan to be done by 3 p.m. at the latest. The cookies will be packaged and ready to deliver!





# Kid Min Minute



What an incredible Christmas program the kids put on Sunday night! We are so very proud of every single one of them and the work they put into each of their parts, big parts and small parts! The storyline of the show was such a creative way to bring the celebration of Jesus' birth and the true meaning of Christmas to life! Great job to the kids with speaking parts, you guys did amazing and to all of our singers and dancers, I was complimented several times on how well you guys knew the songs and motions! Great job everyone!!

Special thanks to Shana Bench and Staci Carey for devoting so much of your time to this special show! And while it makes me sad to write this, this was an even more special show because Shana Bench is hanging up her Christmas program director's hat. We have been blessed with her talented contributions for so many years and we are thankful for all of the hours, songs, days, practices, shows, costumes, gifts, and creative twists that she has devoted to this annual show! Many thank you's to Shana for all of the years you have put into making the show as amazing as it is! Staci Carey has also devoted so much of her time, creativity, talents, and choreography ideas to making the show what it is but she has agreed to stick around a little while longer to work with and help mentor the program's next directors. We are so thankful and blessed by both Shana and Staci and we immensely thank you for all that both of you have put into the Christmas program throughout the years! Bravo!!



Calling all kids who would like to participate in the **Christmas Eve evening service!** If your kids would like to be in the nativity part of the Christmas Eve service at 5 p.m., please email or Natalie Hardin at [nahardin@gmail.com](mailto:nahardin@gmail.com) or text at 405-762-9330. We need 8-10 kids to dress up as Mary, Joseph, angels, Wise Men, and shepherds to participate in that special service. If your child would like to do this, please get in contact with Natalie this week because she will be lining out who is dressing up as whom and getting the costumes together. There is not a specific age group that can participate in this but they will be asked to stand still on stage for various periods of time so please use your best judgment if this is something your child is old enough to do.

Don't forget our **Super Cool Pool Party** (without the pool!) on Dec. 19 from 6-9 p.m. for our 3rd-6th graders and Youth!! All RSVPs, \$5 per kids payment, and shirt sizes are due by **THIS THURSDAY, 12/14**, to save your spot! We



are ordering our shirts and supplies so we won't be able to add in a bunch of extras after the deadline. This night is going to be so fun, we will be tying festive t-shirts, playing all kinds of games (WITH prizes!), eating pizza and getting to hang out with our friends the week of Christmas break! Please come join the fun and invite your friends!

## Prayer Requests

**We pray for our church family:** Debi Shore, Glennette Meredith, Bill Bowles, Keith Young, Gerald Whitfield, Rodney Stewart, Joan Dreessen, Jennifer Bounds, Gene Owen, Denise Shoun, Marie Lynch, Dennis Lynch, Steve Ochs, Carl Biggs

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

**We pray for our friends and family members:** The Family of Barrett and Megan Ellis, Cathy Carter, Max Brownlee, Cooper Lawson, Rosalee Martin, Barb & Kara Sawyer, Renee Leathers, Crystal Grilley, Don Channel, Mike Brown, John Timmons, Linda Beedle, Charlotte Cascio, Darald Kizzia, Bradley Butt, Teal Esmeyer, Hendrix Beutler, Tonya Stansbury, Dennis & 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

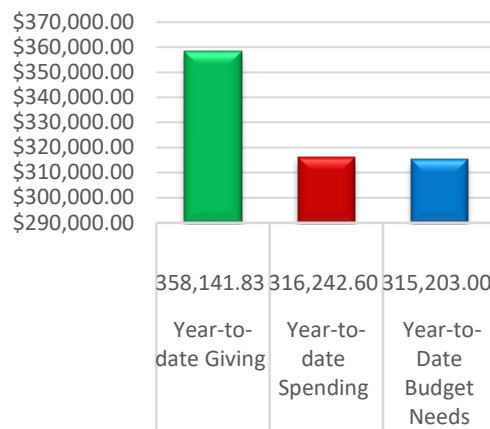
**And our military all over the world:** Sonny Crick, Court Machtolff, Bonnie Epperson, Jonah Frieze, Garret Canning, T.J. Wilson, Matt Byce, Braxton Canning, Nate Ames

## FCC Attendance

December 10 – 187

Average Nov. Attendance – 201

## FCC Financial Update





# 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!**





# YOUTH NEWS



Wednesday, 12/13 Youth Nights + Live Nativity 6 pm – 7:30 pm (RSVP for “Pool” Party)  
Sunday, 12/17 Donuts, Worship – Home Alone 10:30 am + Youth Extra  
\*\*\* Tuesday, 12/19 Pool Party! 6 pm – 9 pm \$5 \*\*\*  
Sunday, 12/24 Worship – A Christmas Carol 10:30 am

## GATHER

## GROW

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.

What’s your favorite part of this season? Is it *Christmas vacation*? There’s no school, you get to sleep in, and you can do all the fun holiday stuff. But it gets better. Pack your bags . . . This scripture series has us headed to a tropical paradise where we get to experience the story of Christmas in a completely new way!

- Before Jesus came to earth, the world was in desperate need of a savior. If you were to go back and read the parts of the Old Testament, you would most likely have some questions... **First, “Where’s Jesus?”** I mean, a lot of bad stuff happened!
  - **Read John 1:1–3.** Jesus as “the Word.” The Bible tells us that Jesus was, and is, always there. He wasn’t God’s spontaneous response to bad stuff going on. He was always a part of the plan. Since the very beginning, Jesus was there.
  - **Read John 1:4–5.** Jesus is “light.” In fact, it tells us that Jesus was light for the “whole world” — the world’s savior! Jesus knows that everyone, including you and me, will have circumstances that make life feel broken, overwhelming, sad, or confusing at times. Those times are when we realize we need this light — Jesus himself. When something in our lives feels dark, Jesus is able to light it up by bringing us hope, guidance, and joy!
- **Now your second question has to be, “Wait, who’s John? I thought this was a story about Jesus!”**
  - **Read John 1:6–10.** John the Baptist, was chosen by God to tell people that the gift they were about to get was like a double helping of the thing they needed most: grace and truth. Grace to forgive all of our missteps and truth to point us the right way.
- **Your third question might be, “How does that work? How does God intend to fix all this bad stuff?”**
  - **Read John 1:11–14.** We can start by believing that Jesus can do this. We have to trust Jesus in our darkest areas of life, the hardest things we’re facing. Some people would rather hide their darkest places in life from Jesus. So, obviously, those places stay dark. People cannot receive everything that Jesus offers if they don’t want it.
  - If we do want it . . . if we want Jesus to light up the dark areas of our life and the world, we can choose to follow Jesus, to ask him to be the light in our life.

**Reroute** (Weekly challenge): Every vacation has moments of un-vacation-y stuff... take a moment to reroute and get back to the fun. Ask yourself: What do I have in my life that feels more dark and less light? Ask Jesus to help you bring light to the dark for you.

**PRAYER:** God, thank you for sending Jesus as the savior we so badly needed and still need today. Help us to step out of the darkness and move closer to your light. Help this Christmas season to be different so that we can show others how much you love this world. Amen.

Sunday, 12/17 Reading Scripture = Kyndal; serving = Lily & Hadley  
11:30 am-1 pm Angel Tree deliveries  
Sunday, 12/24 Reading Scripture = Makenna; serving = Gabby & Bailey

## GIVE

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.



Calling all 30-50 year olds! Our 2<sup>nd</sup> 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!



Our October Loose Change offering was designated to support Law Enforcement. We chose to honor our local School Resource Officers with a small token of appreciation during the Christmas season. These gifts cards are being delivered this week with the hope that they enjoy a special treat over the holidays and with a reminder that they are appreciated!



# A Christmas Weekend @ FCC



“Christmas in the Country” women’s event, Polar Express & Hot Chocolate during worship, Youth Wrapping party, Christmas Program rehearsal & lunch, Gleaners Sunday School party, FCC Kids Christmas Program and Holiday Tasting Party...and this all happened on Dec. 9 & 10! 😊





# 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**  
The Bible App™

## Join us on the You Version Bible App!

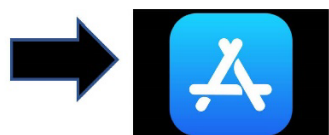
### YouVersion Reading Plan - November and December

Date	YouVersion Plan	Length of Plan	Date	YouVersion Plan	Length of Plan
1-Nov	Giftng and Growth	3 Days	3-Dec	Rediscovering Christmas in the Chaos	4 Days
2-Nov	Giftng and Growth	3 Days	4-Dec	Rediscovering Christmas in the Chaos	4 Days
3-Nov	Giftng and Growth	3 Days	5-Dec	Discovering Hope Through Joseph	5 Days
4-Nov	Stop, Drop and Worship	6 Days	6-Dec	Discovering Hope Through Joseph	5 Days
5-Nov	Stop, Drop and Worship	6 Days	7-Dec	Discovering Hope Through Joseph	5 Days
6-Nov	Stop, Drop and Worship	6 Days	8-Dec	Discovering Hope Through Joseph	5 Days
7-Nov	Stop, Drop and Worship	6 Days	9-Dec	Discovering Hope Through Joseph	5 Days
8-Nov	Stop, Drop and Worship	6 Days	10-Dec	We need Christmas	3 Days
9-Nov	Stop, Drop and Worship	6 Days	11-Dec	We need Christmas	3 Days
10-Nov	The Five P's of Evangelism	8 Days	12-Dec	We need Christmas	3 Days
11-Nov	The Five P's of Evangelism	8 Days	13-Dec	Christmas Prayers for your Heart	5 Days
12-Nov	The Five P's of Evangelism	8 Days	14-Dec	Christmas Prayers for your Heart	5 Days
13-Nov	The Five P's of Evangelism	8 Days	15-Dec	Christmas Prayers for your Heart	5 Days
14-Nov	The Five P's of Evangelism	8 Days	16-Dec	Christmas Prayers for your Heart	5 Days
15-Nov	The Five P's of Evangelism	8 Days	17-Dec	Christmas Prayers for your Heart	5 Days
16-Nov	The Five P's of Evangelism	8 Days	18-Dec	Christmas Vocations	4 Days
17-Nov	The Five P's of Evangelism	8 Days	19-Dec	Christmas Vocations	4 Days
18-Nov	A Three Step Guide to Generosity	5 Days	20-Dec	Christmas Vocations	4 Days
19-Nov	A Three Step Guide to Generosity	5 Days	21-Dec	Christmas Vocations	4 Days
20-Nov	A Three Step Guide to Generosity	5 Days	22-Dec	Wonders of His Love	4 Days
21-Nov	A Three Step Guide to Generosity	5 Days	23-Dec	Wonders of His Love	4 Days
22-Nov	A Three Step Guide to Generosity	5 Days	24-Dec	Wonders of His Love	4 Days
23-Nov	5 Prayers of Gratitude	5 Days	25-Dec	Wonders of His Love	4 Days
24-Nov	5 Prayers of Gratitude	5 Days	26-Dec	Jesus the Creator, Carpenter, Gardner & King	4 Days
25-Nov	5 Prayers of Gratitude	5 Days	27-Dec	Jesus the Creator, Carpenter, Gardner & King	4 Days
26-Nov	5 Prayers of Gratitude	5 Days	28-Dec	Jesus the Creator, Carpenter, Gardner & King	4 Days
27-Nov	5 Prayers of Gratitude	5 Days	29-Dec	Jesus the Creator, Carpenter, Gardner & King	4 Days
28-Nov	Divine Demolition	3 Days	30-Dec	Living Changed: In the New Year	4 Days
29-Nov	Divine Demolition	3 Days	31-Dec	Living Changed: In the New Year	4 Days
30-Nov	Divine Demolition	3 Days	1-Jan	Living Changed: In the New Year	4 Days
1-Dec	Rediscovering Christmas in the Chaos	4 Days	2-Jan	Living Changed: In the New Year	4 Days
2-Dec	Rediscovering Christmas in the Chaos	4 Days			

Download the 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.