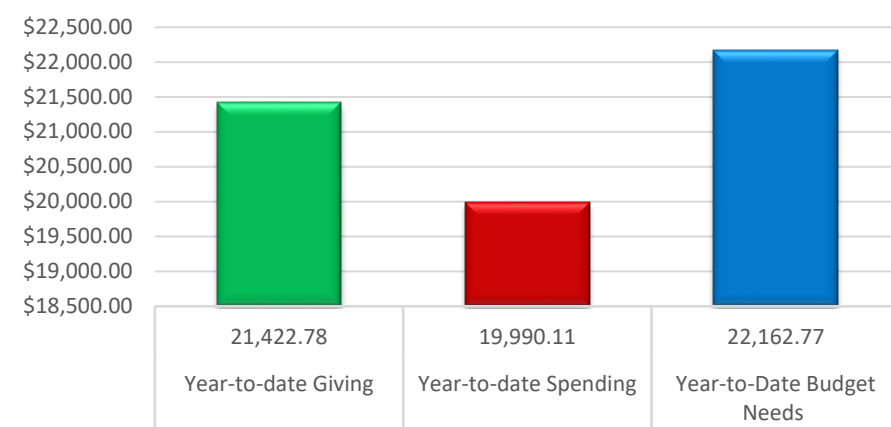


FCC Financial Update



Change the World Sunday!

This Sunday is our loose change offering. This month's collection will go toward our cookie ministry. This is a fairly new ministry where we have members of the congregation bake cookies and then volunteers deliver them to those in our community who may be homebound or just need a little extra pick-me-up. If you are interested in helping with future deliveries, please contact the church office 405-282-4080!

1/21 Worship Attendance: 178
Average Attendance for January: 137

#FCCallin



First Christian Church
402 East Noble Avenue
Guthrie, Oklahoma 73044

www.fccguthrie.org
(405) 282-4080
RONNIE FIELDS, Sr. Pastor
KAREN ALLEN, Associate Minister



The Tie That Binds

First Christian Church, Guthrie

405-282-4080 www.fccguthrie.org

First Christian Church of Guthrie

Sharing Christ
Growing in Faith

January 23, 2024



Volume 60, No. 1

Notes from Pastor Ronnie

The season of Lent is approaching with Ash Wednesday on Feb. 14. Each one of us is invited on a personal journey of 40 days from Ash Wednesday to Easter (does not include Sundays). This has its roots in Jesus' time in the wilderness before he begins his ministry. This season is our opportunity for self-reflection and spiritual growth. In our fasting of the things we give up, whether from food or other distractions, we find a closer connection to God. Through prayer and studying scripture, we seek peace and renewal.

Let's use this time for acts of kindness and giving, bringing to life Jesus' message of love and service. As we walk this path toward Easter, may we each find strength and renewal in our faith.

Grace and Peace,

Ronnie

Laity Sunday was amazing!

Thank you to all who participated in our Laity Sunday service! A special thank you to Justin Stevens for the welcome, Gretchen Hanna for the beautiful prayer, Jana Frey for the fun children's sermon, Tim Hibner for the closing blessing and Brian Pierson, Brittany Timmons, Shana, Makenna and Gabby Bench, Madison Hey, and Glendon Birdwell for the beautiful music. We want to give a huge thank you to Darl Doles for sharing the message. His personal testimony and expression of faith were a true blessing. If you missed the service, be sure to check it out on our Facebook page (First Christian Church of Guthrie) and website (www.fccguthrie.org).

Kid Min Minute

Keeping Up With Karen



Kidventure is kicking off this **Wed., Jan. 24 from 3:30 to 5 p.m.** We will meet every Wednesday through Spring Break. Kidventure is for any students 5 year old through 6th grade to come together to learn the Bible in a fun and active way! We are excited to get another series of Kidventure started with our FCC kids! Still want to sign up your kids? Email nahardin@gmail.com for the link to sign up!

Save the date!! Vacation Bible School is going to be here before we know it! Please save the dates of **June 10-13** to join us as we go under the sea "Scuba" style while we learn how to dive into a friendship with God! We are so excited about all that this VBS has to explore and can't wait to get to work on it. VBS is a ministry that requires all hands on deck to help it stay *afloat*! Our first VBS event will be a **Baked Potato Bar Lunch Fundraiser on Sun., Feb. 4** right after worship, cost per plate is by donations and all funds raised go to the VBS budget for supplies, snacks, materials, and decorations. We hope that you make plans that day to join us for lunch! To-go plates will be available for purchase as well!

Spaghetti Lunch fundraiser! You'll want to mark your calendar for our 2nd annual **Spaghetti Lunch on Sun., March 3** immediately following the worship service. The kids and youth are hosting this fundraiser lunch to help earn funds to offset their camp costs. The cost of lunch is by donation, with a recommended amount \$5 per plate or \$20 per family. Can't stay for lunch after church but still want to help support our kids? No problem! There will be to-go lunches available for you to take with you and enjoy! The funds raised through this lunch will be distributed and credited to the kids and youth who help with the preparing, cooking, serving and cleanup. Last year, this fundraiser lunch was wildly successful because our generous congregation supported these campers and we hope that we can help lighten the camp costs to families with everyone's support this year too!



We are almost a month into the new year and this is that time of the new year where you start to evaluate whether you've kept on track with any new commitments you've made or are maybe regretting falling "off track" so quickly. Wherever you are on the spectrum, I hope that you find yourself in a place of hope and renewal as we continue into 2024.

Each year, I spend time during the first couple weeks of January filling in my new calendar and realizing just how much ministry goes on at FCC. At the same time, I'm drawn to wondering what will happen in the coming year that isn't on the calendar. I often wonder if there are people in our church family who are looking for ways to get plugged in but just aren't sure where to start. With that, I decided maybe listing a few ways that you could engage in our church ministries might be helpful.

- Connect with us on You Version and do a daily Bible Study reading with us. It's a simple app to download on your computer or smart phone. I send out the invites to the Bible studies once you have set up an account and "friended" me.
- Join a Small Dinner Group — they are forming right now! There are a variety of types, including eating at restaurants, potluck at the church, dining in homes and a new one which will feature weekly Bible study and dining out once a month.
- Get online on Monday evenings and join our "online Bible study." The link is posted each Monday morning on our Facebook page.
- Like and share the things we post on social media so others will know what's happening. We all have a big network of friends and by sharing the activities we are sharing the exciting things happening at FCC.
- Be a part of our Meal Ministry. We are in need of a few additional people who could be added to help deliver meals when a need arises. We deliver meals to those coming home from the hospital, families welcoming new babies, or those who have been sick at home for an extended period.
- Cookie Ministry — help bake cookies once a month or help deliver cookies once a month to our homebound or someone who just needs a little extra joy brought to them.
- Bereavement Ministry — When someone loses a loved one, we provide a meal for the family before or after the service. You can sign up to bring a side dish and will be contacted when the need arises; or you can sign up to come help prep and serve the meal on the day of the service.
- Kidventure — Volunteers are needed to help guide students to different areas and help with pre-arranged lessons. Volunteers can also help prep and serve the snack each week (Jan. 24-March 13).
- Desserts! — Our first Sunday luncheons have become a popular event. We can always use desserts for these.
- Tuesday Bible Study — Wayne Elder leads a Bible Study at 6:30 p.m. in the Choir Room. They will begin a new study series on Feb. 6 titled "Women of the Bible."
- Read with a Student — We have many elementary teachers in our schools and they would love to have you come volunteer and read with students once a week or once a month.
- School Support — Do you have ideas for how we can support teachers at the high school each month? Let us know and/or help us put together special treats for them each month.

Those are just a handful of the things we do on a regular basis. If you are interested in being a part of any of these ministries, let me know and I will get you connected with the right person or on the list to be called when the need arises. Each month, I will try to highlight a few more ways you can serve and get involved at FCC! We'd love for you to be "All In" Sharing Christ and Growing in Faith with us!

God Bless,

Karen

Celebrate!

February Birthdays!

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1 – Bill Bowles
Kathryn Smith
Zachary Allen | 9 – Linda Wrede
Marsha Dewart
Sharyl Padgett | 22 – Maxine Bennett
Glennette Meredith
Jaxton Rice |
| 2 – Luke Gill | 10 – Alice Olstad | 23 – Brent Biggs |
| 3 – Carol Smith
Laura Benham | 12 – Ellie Ball | 24 – Bobby Davison |
| 5 – Debbie Considine
LaMoyne Hardin
Jonah Friese | 13 – Colten Lyons | 25 – Helen Welch |
| 6 – Gracie Shults
Kevin Kemper | 14 – Addison Doles
Gentry Hardin
Brittany Torres | 26 – Rod Stewart
Janet Hudson |
| 7 – Nick Bench
Haley Gallo
Mindy Reece
Reagan Wilder | 15 – Don Hardin | 27 – Tyler Biggs |
| | 17 – Diann Owen | |
| | 18 – Emalyn Redman
Elijah Powell | |

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 11 – Jim & Kathryn Smith | 25 – Gale & Trish Coker |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|

Prayer Requests

Our Love & Sympathy go out to: The Family of Teresa Russell **Hospitalized at this time:** Joan Dreessen

We pray for our church family: Rodney Stewart, John Riddle, Bill Cunningham, Maxine Ball, Deannie Young, Mike Carey, Bill Bowles, Gerald Whitfield, Jennifer Bounds, Gene Owen, Denise Shoun, Marie Lynch, Dennis Lynch, Steve Ochs, Carl Biggs

Our church family currently in rehab/assisted living/nursing home: Keith Young, Glennette Meredith, Elmina Lynch, Cynthia Baker, Mickey Eckley, Dorothy Smith

We pray for our friends and family members: Tillie Hartman, Jacob Carey, Sharon Russell, Camden Zehall, Cooper Lawson, Cathy Carter, Rosalee Martin, Barb & Kara Sawyer, Renee Leathers, Crystal Grilley, Don Channel, Mike Brown, John Timmons, Linda Beedle, Charlotte Cascio, Teal Esmeyer, Hendrix Beutler, 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

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

Mark 1:14–20

In this story, we find Jesus calling four of his disciples to follow him. Their names are Simon, Andrew, James, and John. All four of these guys had the same job. **Do you remember what it was?** That's right — they were fishers. Speaking of careers, that's a tough job! They went out every day to catch fish that they could sell to provide for their families. Some of them were in the family fishing business like James and John were with their dad, Zebedee. Jesus came and interrupted their plans because he had much better plans for them. He told them that instead of fishing for fish, they could follow him and fish for people. That meant they would go with Jesus to tell more people about God. When Jesus told them to follow him, they didn't wait, think it over for long, or let their worry about what might happen to their fishing business get in the way. They just trusted what Jesus said and followed him right away. Simon, Andrew, James, and John were among the first to become disciples of Jesus, and they did end up going out to "fish" for more people to follow Jesus, too!

SCRIPTURE QUESTIONS:

- What did Simon, Andrew, James, and John all have in common? *They were fishermen.*
- What did Jesus say to them? *To follow Jesus and become fishers of people.*
- How did they respond to Jesus' call? *They left everything right away and followed Jesus.*
- Read Psalm 62:6–7. What do these verses remind us about God? *How do those things help us trust God's plans for us? God is our rock, salvation, fortress, mighty rock, and refuge. These verses remind us we can depend on God and trust God's plans.*

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

- Why do you think it's important to think about the future right now?
- How is following Jesus part of God's plan for you? How do you know?
- What are some plans you think God might have (or you hope God has) for you?

God, thank you for having the best plans for us, especially the one where you sent Jesus to this world. Help us to trust everything you have planned for us, even when it's hard to imagine what they might be. Amen.



I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

Philippians 4:13 (NIV)

Youth Nights!

1/24 Wed = 6-7:30

Youth

1/28 Sun
11:30 - 1



The **Christian Outreach Team** needs you! The team will meet in the choir room this Sunday following Worship. We will be looking at developing a list of outreach opportunities that we can help with in the community. We need everyone's help brainstorming different areas and ways to promote participation. This meeting will be less than an hour and is led by Wayne Elder, Krista Smith and Kelly Simpson. Come be part of the team!

Connections Team Updates!

I feel like we should be having a chili cookoff every Sunday as cold as it's been! In all seriousness, thank you to all of those who helped in making our 15th FCC Annual Chili Cookoff a success! This event is always an exciting event for the entire church! Be watching for details about Lucky Bingo coming soon! Our next Connection Team meeting is Monday, February 5th at 5:30 in the choir room. We hope you can join us!

Jana Frey

Connections Team Leader



LifeLine Screenings will be held at FCC on Fri., Jan. 26.

Screenings include Carotid Artery Screening, Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening, Peripheral Arterial Disease Screening, Or Atrial Fibrillation Screening.

If you are interested in signing up, call 800-636-0186

If you need financial assistance with your screenings, please contact Shana in the Church Office at 405-282-4080 as we have a gift certificate available.

FCC Summer Camp 2024 — “On The Case!”

We are excited to launch our own Summer Camp in 2024. In the past, we have typically participated with our Regional Church Camp but in recent years have been dreaming of putting together a camp that is unique to our students and one that would offer a chance to build strong relationships, do service projects in our area and give them an opportunity to invite friends. Here's a little Q&A to help everyone understand the plan!

****WHEN:** Camp for 2nd-3rd graders (completed) will be July 8-10 and camp for 4th-12th (completed) will be July 8-12. All of our campers will be at the same campsite, we have just designed it so our youngest campers are only staying two nights so they can “get their feet wet” without being away from home for a full week.

****WHERE:** We will stay in the modern cabins at Central Oklahoma Camp and Conference Center. This camp is located on the southern edge of Guthrie and one that some of our older campers will be familiar with from previous camps.

****WHAT TO EXPECT:** We will have adults staying with campers throughout the week. At Camp we will have opportunities for Small Group time, meals, fun activities — including swimming, fishing, canoes, paddleboats, indoor recreation and cookouts. Our 4th-12th graders will also have an opportunity to do the ropes courses, participate in offsite service projects and have a fun evening out at an event center and restaurant.

****HOW MUCH IS IT?** While we are still dialing in on the costs, expect the cost to be similar to the pricing of regional camps in previous years. For those unfamiliar, cost typically ranges around \$200/student for 2nd-3rd graders and \$350/student for the older groups.

****FUNDRAISING:** There will be multiple opportunities for students to earn money to help offset the cost. On March 3, we will have a spaghetti dinner with proceeds benefitting those who help shop, set-up, cook, serve and clean up. In May and June, junior high and high school students can volunteer at the Kiwanis Baseball Park concession stand and earn money per shift toward their camp fees. We have also been gifted boxes of Pokémon cards that will be sold at a Pokémon trading card event at the church. Students can help with those events to earn money. Dates will be coming soon for this.

****CURRICULUM:** We will be doing a curriculum that is similar to our Sunday morning and youth curriculum with some added fun. The title of the curriculum is: “On The Case!”

****I HAVE ATHLETIC PRACTICE OR JOB AND NEED TO LEAVE CAMP OCCASIONALLY:** We understand that for some Junior High and High School students, school sports practices begin in July. If your student has an athletic practice they need to attend, they can leave for practice as long as the specific days/times are turned in prior to camp and your student has transportation to and from practice. If your student has a job and needs to leave for work, they will also be allowed to leave for work purposes so long as the days/hours are turned in ahead of camp. If your student drives, you will need to fill out a permission slip for them to leave camp and drive themselves to either of these activities.

****SIGN-UP DATE:** April 1 is the deadline to reserve a spot. The initial deposit is \$25/student. The remainder will be due by May 31. We will not be able to take late sign-ups due to deadlines to reserve space at Camp.

****WHO CAN I INVITE?:** Students are welcome to invite friends who are within the age ranges of the camp they are attending. Friends will need to adhere to the deadlines for sign-up as well.

****VOLUNTEERS:** We will need a multitude of adult volunteers to make this successful. Following the April 1 deadline, we will have a better idea of how many we will need. There will be opportunities for small group leaders, meal prep, meal delivery, meal sponsorship, service project adult helpers, outdoor and indoor activity helpers, overnight volunteers to stay with students in cabins and drivers for off-site activities. Adult volunteers are not expected to be there every day and there will be opportunities to work a few hours or help a couple days; any amount of hours would be helpful!

****GOALS:** For this camp to be successful we need a minimum of seven students in each age group (2nd and 3rd graders, 4th-6th graders, 7-12th graders). If we are unable to obtain those numbers in a specific group we will not be able to host that age group this year. As always, Regional camp opportunities are available as well for each age group.

****HOW DO I SIGN UP??** Registration forms will be available on Sunday, Feb. 4. We will have them in hard copy as well as online!

****PRAYER:** Please commit to pray for this new adventure as we embrace something new and different. Pray for those who are planning, those who will come and for our volunteers!