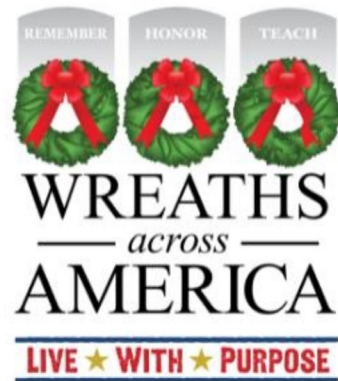


Handbells are coming back!

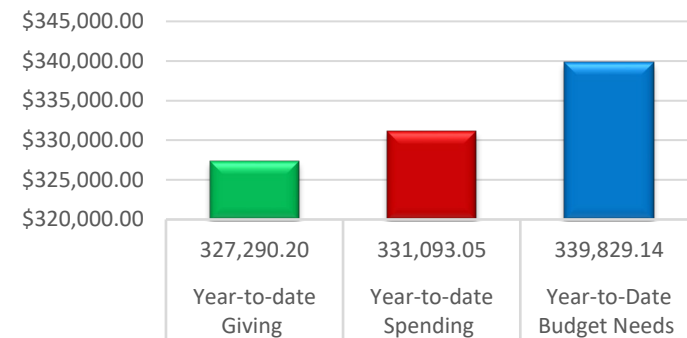
It has been many years since we have had our handbell choir active and sharing in worship. We are excited to announce that Jana Frey will be leading this group, and they will play during our Christmas season and periodically throughout the year as a special music addition to our worship services. We are so blessed at FCC to have a variety of musical talent and look forward to the handbells adding an additional element to the worship.



Loose Change OFFERING

will be collected
November 24

FCC Financial Update



FCC Attendance

November 17 – 131

Average November Attendance – 165



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 19, 2024



Volume 60, No. 11

Notes from Pastor Ronnie

Hello Church!

I don't know about you, but I find myself weary. What about you, are you weary? Weary from the noise of another heated election. Weary from the demands of life, the hectic schedules, the endless to-do lists, the stress of work and home. Weary from health challenges, both physical and emotional. And weary as we look ahead to the upcoming holiday season, which often brings as much exhaustion as it does joy.

This Advent, I invite you to come just as you are (tired, overwhelmed, or weary) and join us for our new sermon series, "The Weary World Rejoices." Advent is a season of waiting, expectation, and hope. It's a time when we acknowledge the brokenness around us, but also look ahead with courage, trusting that God's light will break through our darkness.

Through this series, we will explore the promises God has made to us of truth, compassion, restoration, and justice. Each week, we will be reminded that even in the midst of our weariness, there is hope. The birth of Jesus is the fulfillment of these promises, and His light is what allows us to rejoice, even in the darkest times.

We also have several special services and events planned during this Advent season to help us reflect, celebrate, and find rest in God's presence:

Hanging of the Greens Service: Dec. 1 during 10:30 a.m. worship. We begin Advent with songs and readings. Together, we decorate our sanctuary with symbols that help tell the story of Christmas, preparing our hearts and our space for the coming of Jesus.

Dinner and Worship Night: Join us on Dec. 1 at 5 p.m. for a relaxed evening of fellowship, dinner, and worship downstairs in the Fellowship Hall and Parlor.

Children's Christmas Program and Tasting: On Dec. 8 at 6:30 p.m., celebrate the joy of the season as our children share the Christmas story with us, followed by a tasting of delicious treats. Please make plans to bring a favorite holiday snack.

Blue Christmas Service: Dec. 19 at 6 p.m. This service is for those who find the holiday season challenging—a time for quiet reflection, acknowledging the pain or loss we carry, while finding comfort in God's love and the comfort of knowing you are not alone.

Christmas Eve Service: Dec. 24 at 5 p.m. A family friendly candlelight service for all ages where we rejoice together in the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, the Light of the World.

No matter where you find yourself this season, (weary, hopeful, grieving, or joyful) we invite you to come and be part of this journey. Let's be together, share in God's promises, and experience the hope that allows a weary world to rejoice.

Ronnie

#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

Kid Min Minute

Keeping Up With Karen



As I sit in my office on Monday morning and look at the calendar for the next several months, I am so excited about all that we have going on at FCC! Here's a quick look ahead at some of the things you may or may not be aware of "behind the scenes" at FCC.

• This Fall, our small Dinner Group Ministry had seven groups meeting, involving 75 people. They ate at a variety of places including Interurban, Guthrie Grill, Stables, Guthrie Brewery, Chicken Foot, Romas, Los Arcos, in homes and at the church! The groups are finishing up their final meetings in November/December. We will reshuffle groups in January and new groups will meet three times from February-May! I hope you will consider joining a group!

• Remodeling – as you've noticed we have begun doing some "small" projects this Fall including replacing the sanctuary steps and new flooring in the second-floor kitchen area. These projects have been funded through monies donated throughout the year to the Building Fund. It's because of faithful giving that we are able to do these updates. Some other things on our radar include updating the Reception Hall, having an architect look at how we could open up the Sanctuary entryway to be more inviting and less crowded, and continuing flooring and door updates through the second-floor hallway where our offices and nursery areas are located. As you know, these types of updates require funding and we will be getting quotes and ideas for those areas in the coming months and will keep everyone informed of plans and possible ways to donate!

• "Retired Fellowship" (our 50-plus group – retired or feel like you want to be retired) – I have been a little lax in getting things on the calendar for this group and will be focusing in more on ways we can get together and have fun in 2025. Some things will be day trips while others will be evening activities as I know some in that age group still have regular working hours. I would love some ideas of what you'd like to do, so please feel free to text me (405-615-2240) or catch me on Sunday and give me ideas.

• Meal Ministry – We have an amazing team of 18 people who make up our Meal Ministry team. I call on these individuals when we have someone go home from the hospital following an in-patient stay, outpatient stay, or someone has an extenuating circumstance where meals would be helpful. Typically, I will text a group of 4-5 people and ask who can provide meals for a family and we try to provide three meals over the course, with Meal Ministry members taking one of the three days. In 2024, we have provided 45 meals to 15 families. I would love for you to consider being part of this ministry in 2025. Meals consist of a variety of things, but most people deliver a main dish, salad/veggie, dessert and bread. If you would like to be added to this Ministry Team, please text or call and let me know.

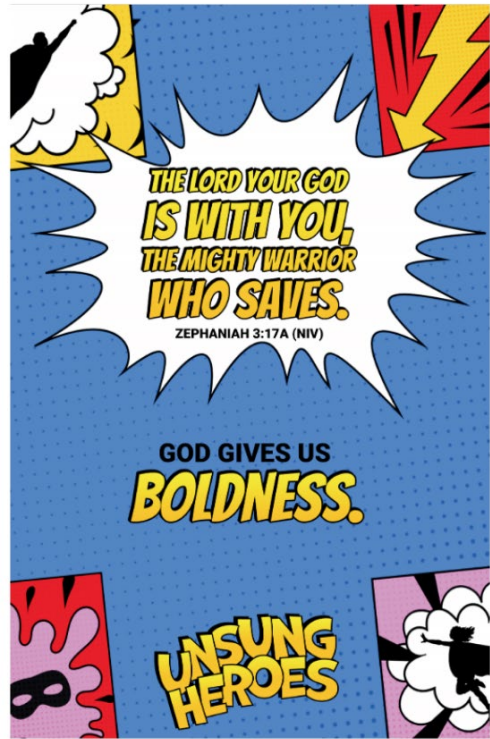
I hope you will make plans to find a place to join a new ministry team in 2025 and we appreciate those who continue to serve in various areas. It is exciting to see FCC growing!

Have a blessed Thanksgiving! *Karen*

what we're teaching THIS WEEK: WEEK 3

what we're teaching in December

At Christmas, gifts are all around us, but we know the holiday isn't about the toys—it's about the joy of Jesus' birth. We might experience joy from opening up gifts, but God gives us even greater joy through Jesus. In this 5-week series, kids will learn all about the joy Jesus brought into the world. They'll learn Jesus is the savior God promised, how God sent Jesus at the perfect time, that Jesus brings joy to the world, and what it means to say Jesus is God's greatest gift.



RUTH ASKS BOAZ FOR HELP: RUTH 3



scan me! to find out more



THE GREAT CHRISTMAS GIVEAWAY

FCC Children's Christmas Musical

Sunday, Dec. 8 6:30 p.m.



1st Sunday Luncheon

Sunday, Dec. 1 following Worship

Chicken Spaghetti, Salad, Bread and Dessert for **\$5/person, \$20 max/family**

To-go boxes available for \$5

Proceeds benefit our 2025 Mission Trip to **JAMAICA** 🇯🇲

On December 1, our First Sunday Lunch will benefit our Mission Jamaica Team, comprised of 16 adults and youth. Our menu includes: Chicken Spaghetti, Green Beans, Salad and Dessert so come meet some of our team, grab a lunch to-go or stay and eat! All donations help the team with expenses related to serving in Jamaica. If you can help bring a dessert, please let Karen Allen know.

YOUTH NEWS

Help needed: Sunday, Dec. 1 following church to set up risers for the children's Christmas program.

This Sunday = help needed bringing down Christmas decorations and decorating (pizza provided!) We will be done by 12:30 p.m.

December dates - add them to your calendar or pick up a printed one on Sunday!

🎄 **Dec 1:** no Youth Extra. Hanging of the Greens practice at 9 a.m. for singers and speakers & 9:45 a.m. for extra "hangers". Spaghetti lunch to raise money for the Jamaica Mission team. No youth activities so come eat, if you're not helping! 5:45 p.m. Praise Night (come at 5 with your own dinner.)

★ **Dec 8:** Youth downstairs until 12:30 p.m.

🎁 **Dec 15:** Youth Extra & Angel Tree Shopping. Bring \$5 for Canes chicken. Done by 4 p.m.

👴 **Dec 22:** Help deliver gifts after church

☀️ **Dec 24:** Christmas Eve service 5 p.m.

👶 **Dec 29:** no youth activities

The latest news from Mother's Day Out:



'Tis the season! December brings me so much joy, for so many reasons. December is a time for fun, friends, family, and most importantly Jesus. In December, we will only have class for three weeks, but we will do our best to cram in as much fun as possible, while also learning about the true meaning of the holiday. Our focus this month is the "Joy Story" based on Luke: 1:46-47. Tuesday, Dec. 3, is Giving Tuesday. At MDO we will be making Christmas cards to share with senior citizens of the community. We will also be doing lots of Christmas crafts and decorating ornaments. Dec. 17 we will have winter PJ and popcorn day and then Dec. 19 we will decorate cookies and have our Christmas parties. Christmas Break is Dec. 20 – Jan. 6 and then we will return for school on Jan. 7. We are wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a very Blessed New Year!

--Samantha Hilbers, MDO Director



Birthdays

NOVEMBER

21 – Jewel Jarnagin
23 – Brock Parker

25 – Wheeler Coburn
Wayne Elder
Sherry Porter
26 – Aubrey Timmons

Anniversaries

NOVEMBER

20 – Kyle & Kristi Blakemore
21 – Rodney & Jane Stewart
Dennis & Marie Lynch

25 – Melvin & Judy Scheihing
Robert & Diana Dewart
26 – Stan & Terryl Wiczorek

Prayer Requests

Our Love & Sympathy go out to: Brenda Niles in the death of her brother, James; Alice Allen in the death of her brother-in-law, Jim Allen

We pray for our church family: Steve Ochs, KC Griffin, Michelle Schroeder, Bobby Davison, Bonita Johnston, Paula Bowles, Cayne Kyle, Brayden Pena, Julie Wiss, Ty Biggs and his crew, John Shore, Jerry Ball, Ryan Wolf, Linda Tontz, Lydia Gates, Marie Lynch, Carol Smith, Rylea Cowart, Bill Bowles, Arnold Burkett, Gerald Whitfield, Dennis Lynch

Our church family currently in rehab/assisted living/nursing home: John Riddle, Holly Kincaid, Cynthia Baker, Dorothy Smith, Margaret McNeely

We pray for our friends and family members: Karrie Patterson (Koch), Jim Bray, Lisa Hillman, Cathy Carter, Betty Foster, Rob Epp, Kade Warner, Gail Davis, Jaime Patterson, Madelyn Wehr, Wayland Kirkes, Cathy Joy, Willie White, Rhonda Ward, Rick Minnich, Jeff Sale, Regina Oakley, Karen Lear, Flora Overstreet, Rachel Smith, Pam Timmons, Asher Houston, Jacob Bayless, Mary Beth Gilliland, Tillie Hartman, Charlotte Cascio, Teal Esmeyer

And our military all over the world: Natasha Okine, Patrick Hardin, Sonny Crick, Court Machtloff, Bonnie Epperson, Jonah Friese, Matt Byce, Braxton Canning, Nate Ames

FCC Advent Event

What a fun Family Advent Event we hosted on Sunday! Thank you to everyone who came to put together your family's advent calendar. It was a great time! If you signed up for an advent calendar to-go kit, I will be getting those ready for pickup this week and will contact you to arrange how to get them to you! We do still have a few kits available for sale for \$25 if you'd like to have a second opportunity to grab one for your family to have, please email nahardin@gmail.com for arrangements. These are offered on a first come, first serve basis, once we are out, we are out!



There are still just a few Advent kits remaining, if you would like to purchase one, scan the QR code:



New Flooring!

We are continuing to make improvements to our facility and are thrilled with our latest improvement of new flooring in the second-floor kitchen area, bathrooms and walkway. The flooring matches the entryway to the sanctuary and looks amazing. As part of the upgrade, we added new handicap-height toilets in both bathrooms behind the Reception Hall.

A big thank you to Bill and Barbara Mahan, Mike Canning, Jerry Caughman, Brittany Torres, Tim Hibner and John and Karen Allen for getting the area prepped on Tuesday prior to installation and thanks to the Mahans, Allens and Brittany for their work on Friday to get everything back in place and installing the new toilets. Several have asked about the cost of the improvements. We got three bids and the company that did the sanctuary entryway came in lowest at \$6,385. The new toilets were an additional \$398. We were able to save money by prepping the area ourselves and appreciate everyone who came to help!



Deck the Halls!

Many hands make light work, and we need MANY hands-on Sunday, Nov. 24 as we will decorate the sanctuary for Advent. Our Youth Group will be bringing down all the décor and following worship on Sunday we will decorate! We will provide pizza, salad, cookies and drinks and encourage all ages to stay and help. The more the merrier and the more people we have the less time it takes. Our sanctuary always looks amazing for Advent, and we would love for you to be a part of that process. On Sunday, Dec. 1 we will have our Hanging of the Greens service where we finish decorating and learn about the meaning of the various pieces that adorn our Sanctuary and entryway. We hope you will make plans to join us in worship to experience that service as well.

YouVersion online Bible Study

18-Nov	How to be Grateful For Your Life
19-Nov	How to be Grateful For Your Life
20-Nov	How to be Grateful For Your Life
21-Nov	Harvest Thanksgiving All Year Round!
22-Nov	Harvest Thanksgiving All Year Round!
23-Nov	Harvest Thanksgiving All Year Round!
24-Nov	Harvest Thanksgiving All Year Round!
25-Nov	Harvest Thanksgiving All Year Round!
26-Nov	Harvest Thanksgiving All Year Round!
27-Nov	Harvest Thanksgiving All Year Round!
28-Nov	4 Days of Seeing is Believing
29-Nov	4 Days of Seeing is Believing
30-Nov	4 Days of Seeing is Believing

Upcoming Ministry Team Meetings:

- Worship Team 12/8 @ 11:30 a.m.
- Elders 12/11 @ 6 p.m.
- Staff Meeting & Lunch 12/16 @ 11 a.m.

Christmas Stockings

Christmas stockings are under way, and we are thrilled with how many have already been adopted! We have 160 of our 208 already adopted! To adopt a stocking, text or call Karen Allen at 405-615-2240 or you can sign up on Sunday mornings before or after worship in the sanctuary entryway. When adopting a stocking, you are asked to buy a \$25 toy or activity appropriate for the age level of the student (see ideas on the other side of this page). Return gifts to the church by Dec. 8 and please bring them unwrapped as we will sort them and place them all in white gift sacks to deliver to the schools. THANK YOU to everyone who has adopted students and to Kelly Simpson for organizing our list and Tammy Schroder for leading our sign-up table!

Students who still need to be adopted include: (number of students in the age group are listed in parenthesis).

Charter Oak – Kindergarten Girl (1)
 Charter Oak – Kindergarten Boy (5)
 Charter Oak – 1st grade Girl (1)
 Charter Oak – 1st grade Boy (1)
 Charter Oak – 2nd grade Boy (3)
 Charter Oak – 3rd grade Boy (2)
 Charter Oak – 4th grade Boy (4)
 Cotteral – 1st grade Girl (2)

Cotteral – 1st grade Boy (4)
 Cotteral – 2nd grade Boy (3)
 Cotteral – 3rd grade Girl (2)
 Cotteral – 3rd grade Boy (2)
 Cotteral – 4th grade Girl (3)
 GUES – 5th grade Boy (2)
 GUES – 5th grade Girl (2)
 GUES – 6th grade Boy (11)

BLESSING BOX UPDATE

The Blessing Box we built during Mission Sunday has been a tremendous help to our community. It is located at Sadie Porter's home at 1402 E. Cleveland Ave. and has already been refilled a couple times. In order to keep supporting our food security mission, we will offer a drop-off box in the entryway where you can bring canned food items or non-perishable items, and Sadie will take them as needed. We ask that when you go to the store that you be mindful of those in need and pick up an extra can of vegetables, canned meat or something that would be easy to make for a meal. Please be aware that food items that require ingredients to be added (such as Hamburger Helper or boxed Macaroni and Cheese) may not be helpful as those in need may not have the extra ingredients to add.



We are so thankful for those who have already donated and look forward to this being an ongoing ministry. Our Outreach Team met on Sunday and will look to build two more boxes in 2025, with one that can cover southern Guthrie (located at Brittney Torres' and Jerry Caughman's home) and one located at the church. We will give more information on those as we make plans in January.



It's FCC's 12th Year to Bless Guthrie School Students with Stockings!

Since 2012, First Christian Church has given stockings to 2,586 students with an estimated value of more than \$90,000! It takes all of us to bring about that kind of blessing!

This year, we have 206 students in need of a little Christmas cheer!

How Can You Participate?

- Visit the table in the entryway before or after worship or call the church office (405-282-4080) to adopt a student. You are welcome to adopt more than one student!
- Purchase a toy or activity set, not exceeding \$25, and bring it to the church; UNWRAPPED!
- Our Christian Outreach Team will be purchasing gift cards for our High School Students. Feel free to donate \$25 toward those students and we will take care of the rest.
- All gifts are due by Sunday, Dec. 8**, but feel free to bring them sooner!



Gift Ideas for Each Age Group

Pre-K/Kindergarten

Barbies, Baby Dolls, Dress-up and accessories, Plushies, Pre-tend Play, Books, Markers/coloring sets, Dinosaurs, Remote Control Cars, Board Games (Guess Who, Headbanz), Magnatiles, Matchbox Cars, Trucks, Legos, Sports Balls, Tractors, Action Figures

Characters for Pre-K/K

GooJitZu, Sonic the Hedgehog, Bluey, Paw Patrol, Disney princesses, Marvel

1st and 2nd Grade

Barbies, Surprise Minis, Squishmallows, Art Sets, Kinetic Sand, Books, Remote Control Cars, Games (Trouble, Connect Four, Uno), Hot Wheels, Super Heroes, Legos, Action Figures

Characters for 1st/2nd

Scruff a Luffs, Descendants, Star Wars, Marvel, Minecraft, Lego Minis, Peppa Pig, Pokemon

Also, anything surprise or mystery package related, sketch pads, stickers

3rd and 4th Grade

Barbies, Surprise Minis, Squishmallows, Hair/Nail Accessories, American Girl, Art Sets, DIY Crafts, Books, Remote Control Cars, Kinetic Sand, Games (Monopoly, Jenga, Uno, Pokemon), Science Kits, Coding and STEM sets, Legos, jewelry for girls, sports balls

Characters for 1st/2nd

Calico Critters, Descendants, Big City Greens, Star Wars, Minecraft, Marvel, Pokemon, Bluejay gear

5th and 6th Grade

Hair/nail Accessories, Art Sets, DIY Crafts, Journals, Fun Pens, Stickers, Books, Games (Monopoly, Blokus, Apples to Apples Jr., Jenga, Logic Puzzles), Science Kits, Coding and STEM kits, Nerf Balls, Legos, Bluetooth Headphones or Speakers, Pokemon, Fidget Cubes, Jewelry, Keychains, Sports Balls, Bluejay Gear, Rubik's Cubes, Magic activities, Magnetic Drawing Boards

NO NERF GUNS!

We will hold a **Congregational Meeting** on Sunday, Dec. 15 immediately following worship to approve the 2025 Operating Budget.

If you have any questions about the budget, please reach out to Shana Bench, Church Administrator at 405-282-4080 or fccguthrie.office@gmail.com

First Christian Church of Guthrie 2025 Proposed Budget

	2024 Budget	Proposed 2025 Budget	Proposed Increase (Decrease)
Christian Education			
Children's Ministries	650.00	650.00	0.00
Christmas Program	250.00	250.00	0.00
Curriculum - Adult Ministries	500.00	500.00	0.00
Curriculum - Children & Youth Ministries	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
Nursery Wages & Taxes	1,500.00	2,000.00	500.00
Promotion Bibles	285.00	285.00	0.00
Youth Ministries	250.00	250.00	0.00
Total Christian Education	4,435.00	4,935.00	500.00
Christian Outreach			
Community Involvement	3,500.00	3,500.00	0.00
Disciples Mission Fund	150.00	0.00	(150.00)
Hands of Jesus Food Pantry	500.00	500.00	0.00
Hope House	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
Guthrie Ministerial Alliance	200.00	200.00	0.00
Community Assistance	3,500.00	3,500.00	0.00
Mission Sunday	500.00	500.00	0.00
School Support	3,000.00	3,000.00	0.00
United Way of Logan County	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00
Total Christian Outreach	17,350.00	17,200.00	(150.00)
Connections			
All-Church Events	800.00	800.00	0.00
Mileage - Sr. Pastor	750.00	750.00	0.00
Newsletter Postage	500.00	350.00	(150.00)
SimpleChurch Database	1,600.00	1,700.00	100.00
Total Connections	3,650.00	3,600.00	(50.00)
Personnel			
Salaries & Payroll Taxes	259,150.00	266,224.00	7,074.00
Staff Christmas Bonuses	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00
Reimbursables, including cell phones			
Senior Pastor	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
Associate Minister	750.00	750.00	0.00
	262,900.00	269,974.00	7,074.00
Property			
A/C & Boiler Repairs	1,500.00	3,000.00	1,500.00
Capital Improvements	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00
Fire Detection Inspection & Extinguishers	700.00	900.00	200.00
Gasoline	500.00	300.00	(200.00)
Insurance	37,800.00	40,000.00	2,200.00
Janitorial Supplies	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00
Lawn & Flower Care	4,800.00	4,800.00	0.00
Pest Control	1,650.00	1,650.00	0.00
Supplies, Repairs & Maintenance	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00
Utilities	30,000.00	30,000.00	0.00
Van Maintenance	500.00	500.00	0.00
Total Property	82,950.00	86,650.00	3,700.00
Stewardship			
Office Supplies & Software	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00
Fellowship Supplies	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00
Website	250.00	300.00	50.00
Marketing & Promotions	500.00	500.00	0.00
Stewardship Promotion & Education	200.00	200.00	0.00
Total Stewardship	7,450.00	7,500.00	50.00
Worship			
Communion	400.00	400.00	0.00
Honorarium: Pulpit Supply	1,000.00	300.00	(700.00)
Instrument Maintenance	300.00	300.00	0.00
Literature - The Secret Place devotion	160.00	160.00	0.00
Livestream & Video Production	1,000.00	1,100.00	100.00
Music: Choir, Handbells, Instruments	250.00	250.00	0.00
Music & Video Copyright Licensing	850.00	850.00	0.00
Special Service Supplies	500.00	500.00	0.00
Sanctuary Decoration	300.00	300.00	0.00
TextInChurch App	660.00	660.00	0.00
Total Worship	5,420.00	4,820.00	(600.00)
TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET	384,155.00	394,679.00	10,524.00

1st Sunday Lunches

- **Dec. 1** – Chicken Spaghetti – Jamaica Fundraiser 
- **Jan. 5** – Chili Cook-off 
- **Feb. 2** – Baked Potato Bar – Vacation Bible School Fundraiser
- **March 2** – Soup & Sandwich – bring a pot of soup to share, sandwiches provided 

It's Christmas Light Tour Time!

Our "Retired Fellowship" (meaning anyone who is retired or feels like they should be retired) will go to dinner and see Christmas Lights on Friday, Dec. 13 at 5:30. We will eat in Edmond and then go by and see lights at a couple houses in Edmond and trek our way to Kingfisher and then back to Guthrie's lights. We will have space 50 people and cost would be buying your own dinner and donating \$5 toward the gas fund. To sign up, text/call Karen Allen at 405-615-2240 or call the church office at 405-282-4080. You are welcome to invite friends to attend with you! We will need reservations by Sunday, Dec. 1 to get a reservation at a restaurant.



FCC Building Use

We are blessed with a large building with rooms of various sizes. We are thrilled we can offer these spaces for use by our church family, as well as community members and organizations. If you are a regular FCC church attender, we offer our building to you for free and you can pay a custodial fee for clean-up. During any given week, our building is used after "working hours" an average of 4 nights! This means a lot of coordination of schedules for door locks, heat & a/c, custodial staff and office staff. If you need to use any area of the building, whether it be during business hours or after hours, please be sure to contact the church office ahead of the event/usage. This is for the security of our building and safety of our staff and congregation.

You can schedule your event by calling the church office at 405-282-4080 or emailing our Church Administrator, Shana Bench at fccguthrie.office@gmail.com. Thank you for understanding this policy and helping us to ensure we are able to continue offering our building to all!