

December Dates To Remember!

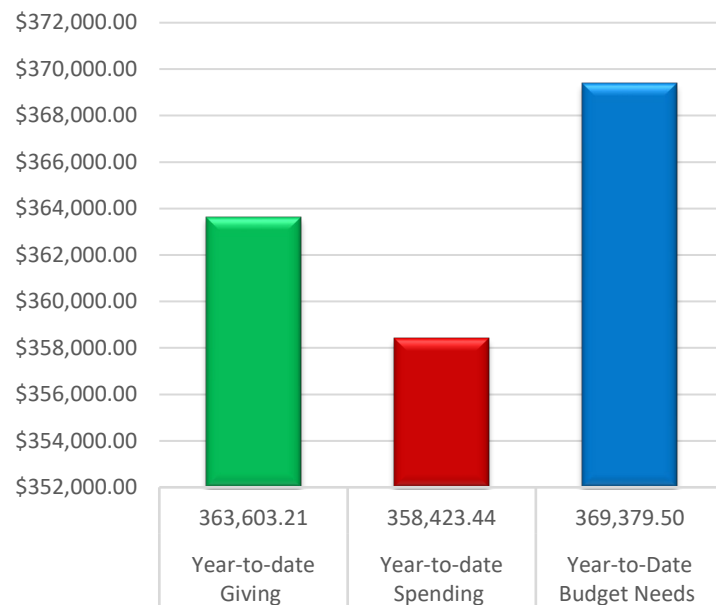
- Dec. 19 – Blue Christmas Service @ 6 p.m.
- Dec. 22 – Loose Change Offering during worship for Camp Joy
- Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Service @ 5 p.m.
- Dec. 29 – Worship @ 10:30

FCC Attendance

December 5 – 184

Average December Attendance – 194

FCC Financial Update



End of Year Gifts

As a reminder – all year-end gifts must be received in the office or postmarked by December 31 to be credited on your 2024 giving statement. Giving statements will be mailed by January 31, 2025 for all total donations over \$25.



The Tie That Binds

First Christian Church, Guthrie

405-282-4080 www.fccguthrie.org

First Christian Church of Guthrie

Sharing Christ
Growing in Faith

December 17, 2024



Volume 60, No. 12



Join us Thurs., Dec. 19 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.



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 we approach the end of the year, I wanted to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude for all of the families at FCC. It is a joy to get to build relationships, to teach your kids, and to get to watch them grow and develop their own personal faith journeys. I also want to thank each and every individual who gives of their time by volunteering to help in all of the ways that we ask for help, giving of your talents by teaching or leading lessons throughout the year, and also those who financially support the children's programming in this church. We have a wonderful support system that is vital to creating an impression on each child -- faith impressions that they will hopefully use to guide them throughout their lives by being well-rooted by their love of Jesus. Each "yes" you say to a need in whatever way you are helping is another moment we can teach these kids all about God's love and Jesus' forgiveness for each of them. With love, *Natalie*

what we're teaching in **JANUARY**

People love camping, and for good reason! You can take in nature, practice special skills, or just take time to relax in a new environment. And when it comes to camping, no one loved it as much as John the Baptist. In this 4-week series, kids will hear about John the Baptist's special role in preparing the way for Jesus and his ministry. John's story will help kids to say their camp motto, "I believe God gives me purpose. **I believe God can speak to me. I believe God is powerful. I believe God's words are true.**"



scan me!
to find out more



It's hard to believe that Christmas is almost here. It's even harder to believe that I have been busy making plans for 2025 the past week! One of the biggest challenges we have is staying a "step ahead" of what's coming up but also being present in the moment. So, while the next couple weeks we are celebrating Christmas, I also just finished making sign-up sheets for Chili Cookoff in January, looking at Lent devotionals, making plans for a Bible Study in February, doing sign-ups for Small Dinner Groups, and filling in VBS and Camp dates on the calendar!

It's exciting to look six months out and know that we already have so much on the calendar and that we are a vibrant and growing church. With that, I hope during this Christmas Season you are reaching out to some of the newer families who are attending and helping them feel included and aware of different events.

A few things I have on my radar for 2025 that I'd love to see you participate in if you are able:

- **Prayer Chain** – It has been on my heart for a while to reignite a "Prayer Chain." Many years ago, we had a group that was committed to praying for those on our prayer list. I would like to begin this group once again. Anyone can join the "Prayer Chain." As part of this group, you would commit to be diligent in praying for needs as they arise. I would send out requests via e-mail and text message and update as those needs change. Once a month, I will also send out the complete prayer list that is listed in our newsletter so you would be kept aware of ongoing needs. If you are interested in joining this group, text (405-615-2240), e-mail (karenkallen@cox.net) or call the church office and we will get you added. I hope to have this group up and going by mid-January.
- **Women/Teen Girl Bible Study** — Staci Carey and I will be collaborating on a new Bible Study titled, "You were made for this moment" by Max Lucado. Our vision is to meet as a large group for a short video and overview each week, then split into separate groups for discussion. This study will be on Mondays from 6:30-7:30 in the Parlor (downstairs northside classroom.) If you are interested in signing up, please contact one of us and we will get you signed up.
- **Food Ministries** – We are needing to add a few more "cooks" to the meal ministry team who take meals to those in need following a surgery or hospital stay. We are also needing a few more people to add to the bereavement team who are willing to bring a side dish or dessert or help during a bereavement dinner. If you are interested in joining either of these teams, please let me know!

I hope you have a wonderful Christmas week and look forward to seeing you at the various services we are offering in the next couple weeks!

In Christ's Love, *Karen*

A Note From Pastor Ronnie

I would love for you to join us on Christmas Eve at 5 p.m. for our Candlelight Service. Growing up in this church, I remember sitting in the pews as a kid with my family, holding my little candle...and one year, accidentally setting my program on fire! Thankfully, the church survived, and it's a memory that always makes me laugh and reminds me how special these services have been to me over the years. This year, we'll reflect on the theme *The Light Has Come*, with music, a living nativity, communion, and, of course, candles lighting up the room. It's a simple, meaningful family friendly service that lasts less than 45 minutes. It is a perfect way to celebrate the hope and joy of Christmas. I can't wait to worship with you!

Ronnie

Thank You's

Dear Friends,

Thank you for perfectly preparing the church and the meal for Mom's services. As always, everything was perfect. We appreciate the outpouring of love and concern and prayers!

God bless all of you ❤️

The Family of Maxine Ball

Thank you so much for the soda bar! It was a fun way to brighten up our day!

Thanks!

Guthrie High School Staff

Many have asked for a way to reach Jane Weeks during the holidays. Please send cards c/o Kim Thomas to 107 Montpelier Dr., Boutte, LA 70039

Thank you to all that brought goodies to share and for helping at the tasting party following the Children's Christmas Program. It was a great evening! Our next event will be the annual **FCC Chili Cookoff on Jan. 5!** You can find the link to sign up on our Facebook page and website! Sign-up sheets will also be available in the entryway on Sunday. We know everyone always looks forward to this event.

Our next **Connections Team meeting** will be Tues., Jan. 7 at 5:30 p.m. in the classroom across from the sanctuary. We would love to have you join us! We hope you all have a very merry Christmas!

Jana Frey and Jan Bayless
Connections Team Leaders

Loose Change offering will be collected this Sunday, Dec. 22 to benefit **Camp Joy**, a local Bible camp North of Guthrie.

Our **Christmas Eve offering** will go to our **Pastor's Discretionary Fund**. This fund is used throughout the year to benefit those in our community who need a little extra assistance.

The latest news from Mother's Day Out:



This week our MDO kids will enjoy Winter PJs & Popcorn day on Tuesday and Christmas Parties on Thursday. We will take a Christmas Break after Thursday and return to our normal schedule on Jan. 7. Merry Christmas!

-Ms. Samantha



Birthdays

DECEMBER

18 – Kim Betchan
Alan Schroeder
19 – Kendall Shults

21 – Tanner Ball
Hollie Mitchell
Lydia Gates
23 – Krista Smith
25 – Sophia Hood
Deannie Young

27 – Tyler Davison
Tommy Payne
Denise Shoun
29 – Cynthia Baker
30 – Kyndal Carey

Anniversaries

DECEMBER

17 – David & Ellie Ball

24 – Eldon & Shirley Waner
27 – Bob & Sharon Davis

28 – Andrew & Natalie Hardin
31 – Bill & Jessica McLain
Nick & Shana Bench

Prayer Requests

Preparing for surgery: Darl Doles (12/23), Karen Allen (1/7), Treva Seals

We pray for our church family: Judy Coburn, Donovan Hardin, Shana Bench, Blake Doles, Anna Frey, Steve Ochs, KC Griffin, Michelle Schroeder, Bobby Davison, Jerry Ball, Ryan Wolf, Lydia Gates, Rylea Cowart, Arnold Burkett, Dennis Lynch, Marie Lynch

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

We pray for our friends and family members: Lillian Butler, Al Pritchett, Darryl Sinclair, Cathy Carter, Willie White, Jeannie Foster, Jim Bray, Rob Epp, Kade Warner, Gail Davis, Jaime Patterson, Madelyn Wehr, Cathy Joy, Rhonda Ward, Rick Minnich, Regina Oakley, Flora Overstreet, Pam Timmons, Asher Houston, Jacob Bayless, Mary Beth Gilliland, 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 YOUTH NEWS

HELLO JANUARY

Worship Schedule:

- 5th: Worship + YX Hadley T, Ally & Abigail, Chili Cook-off, no Youth activities
- 12th: Worship + YX Raley, Cade & Charlie, Youth
- 19th: Worship Lillie B, Hadley T & Savannah, Youth
- 26th: Worship Ava, Hadley H & Avery, no Youth activities

SERVING SCHEDULE:

- 5TH: ALLY & ABIGAIL, HADLEY T
- 12TH: CADE & BRAYLON, RALEY
- 19TH: HADLEY T & SAVANNAH, LILLIE B
- 26TH: ABIGAIL & TAYLOR M, AVA

THE LORD YOUR GOD IS IN YOUR MIDST, A WARRIOR WHO SAVES. HE WILL REJOICE OVER YOU WITH JOY; HE WILL BE QUIET IN HIS LOVE (MAKING NO MENTION OF YOUR PAST SINS). HE WILL REJOICE OVER YOU WITH SHOUTS OF JOY. -ZEPHANIAH 3:17

youth starts = 1/12 @ 12 pm
Esther study begins = 2/3 @ 6:30 pm
YOUTH SUNDAY = 3/9 @ 10:30 AM

Join us on the YouVersion Bible App!

| YouVersion Reading Plan - January-February | | | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|----------------|--------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Date | YouVersion Plan | Length of Plan | Date | YouVersion Plan | Length of Plan |
| 1-Jan | Starting off the New Year Strong | 6 Days | 31-Jan | Trust Fall - Spiritual Growth | 5 Days |
| 2-Jan | Starting off the New Year Strong | 6 Days | 1-Feb | Grace-Simple. Profound. | 3 Days |
| 3-Jan | Starting off the New Year Strong | 6 Days | 2-Feb | Grace-Simple. Profound. | 3 Days |
| 4-Jan | Starting off the New Year Strong | 6 Days | 3-Feb | Grace-Simple. Profound. | 3 Days |
| 5-Jan | Starting off the New Year Strong | 6 Days | 4-Feb | Finding R.E.S.T | 6 Days |
| 6-Jan | Starting off the New Year Strong | 6 Days | 5-Feb | Finding R.E.S.T | 6 Days |
| 7-Jan | Awaken | 3 Days | 6-Feb | Finding R.E.S.T | 6 Days |
| 8-Jan | Awaken | 3 Days | 7-Feb | Finding R.E.S.T | 6 Days |
| 9-Jan | Awaken | 3 Days | 8-Feb | Finding R.E.S.T | 6 Days |
| 10-Jan | Truth Pursuer: Rock Solid Faith | 5 Days | 9-Feb | Finding R.E.S.T | 6 Days |
| 11-Jan | Truth Pursuer: Rock Solid Faith | 5 Days | 10-Feb | God is Able | 5 Days |
| 12-Jan | Truth Pursuer: Rock Solid Faith | 5 Days | 11-Feb | God is Able | 5 Days |
| 13-Jan | Truth Pursuer: Rock Solid Faith | 5 Days | 12-Feb | God is Able | 5 Days |
| 14-Jan | Truth Pursuer: Rock Solid Faith | 5 Days | 13-Feb | God is Able | 5 Days |
| 15-Jan | Freedom in Serving Others | 3 Days | 14-Feb | God is Able | 5 Days |
| 16-Jan | Freedom in Serving Others | 3 Days | 15-Feb | The Jesus I Know | 7 Days |
| 17-Jan | Freedom in Serving Others | 3 Days | 16-Feb | The Jesus I Know | 7 Days |
| 18-Jan | Lost! The Parables of Luke 15 | 9 Days | 17-Feb | The Jesus I Know | 7 Days |
| 19-Jan | Lost! The Parables of Luke 15 | 9 Days | 18-Feb | The Jesus I Know | 7 Days |
| 20-Jan | Lost! The Parables of Luke 15 | 9 Days | 19-Feb | The Jesus I Know | 7 Days |
| 21-Jan | Lost! The Parables of Luke 15 | 9 Days | 20-Feb | The Jesus I Know | 7 Days |
| 22-Jan | Lost! The Parables of Luke 15 | 9 Days | 21-Feb | The Jesus I Know | 7 Days |
| 23-Jan | Lost! The Parables of Luke 15 | 9 Days | 22-Feb | Prayer | 7 Days |
| 24-Jan | Lost! The Parables of Luke 15 | 9 Days | 23-Feb | Prayer | 7 Days |
| 25-Jan | Lost! The Parables of Luke 15 | 9 Days | 24-Feb | Prayer | 7 Days |
| 26-Jan | Lost! The Parables of Luke 15 | 9 Days | 25-Feb | Prayer | 7 Days |
| 27-Jan | Trust Fall - Spiritual Growth | 5 Days | 26-Feb | Prayer | 7 Days |
| 28-Jan | Trust Fall - Spiritual Growth | 5 Days | 27-Feb | Prayer | 7 Days |
| 29-Jan | Trust Fall - Spiritual Growth | 5 Days | 28-Feb | Prayer | 7 Days |
| 30-Jan | Trust Fall - Spiritual Growth | 5 Days | | | |

YOU were MADE FOR THIS MOMENT Bible Study

6 week study starting Monday February 3rd at 6:30

WOMEN & YOUTH MINISTRIES

Contact Karen Allen or Staci Carey to sign-up

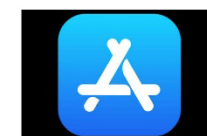
SAVE THE DATE RUMMAGE SALE March 29

items will be accepted by appointment starting February 9th
 Contact Staci or Karen for information

BENEFITTING JAMAICA MISSION TEAM

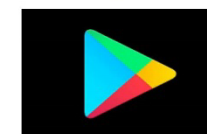
Download the YouVersion Bible App on your Smart Device or go to <https://www.youversion.com/>

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.