



# The Tie That Binds

First Christian Church, Guthrie

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



First Christian Church of Guthrie

Sharing Christ, Growing in Faith

January 27, 2026    Volume 62, Issue 1

## Notes from Pastor Ronnie

Church family,

As shared in an email last week, we are entering a leadership transition in our youth ministry. We are grateful for Staci and the 17 years she has served our students and families. Youth gatherings will continue as scheduled, and for the next few weeks Susan Davison, Elder Chair, and I will serve as the primary point of contact.

As we look ahead, Lent begins on Wednesday, Feb. 18. Lent is a season the church has practiced for centuries, not to be gloomy, but to make room for God. It's a time to slow down, to take an honest look at our hearts, and to prepare ourselves to truly celebrate Easter.

This year, I want to encourage you to think about one simple question: What could I lay down for a season so I can pick up more of Jesus?

For some, that might mean giving something up. For others, it might mean adding something life giving...a few minutes of Scripture each day, a weekly time of prayer, showing up consistently to worship, or choosing one person to encourage every week.

My prayer is that Lent won't just be a religious season we observe, but a genuine opportunity for renewal, repentance, and deeper joy in Christ.

Grace and peace,

There will be an FCC Board Meeting on Sunday, Feb. 1 immediately following worship for the purpose of voting on the funds for the Reception Hall Redesign.

**Our Youth Fun Event canceled on Sunday due to weather will be rescheduled soon. Please watch your email and texts for updates and new dates.**

Bring your coins and small bills this Sunday for our **Laundry Love offering**. Drop your donation in the offering plate along with any regular giving. Laundry Love will be delivered at 10 a.m. on Feb. 14 at Holiday Laundry. All are invited to join our Outreach Team in this mission to share some love to those doing their laundry on Valentine's Day.

# Ministry Opportunities in February:

- Reception Hall Design Team Meeting – Feb. 4 @ 6 p.m.
- Christian Education Team Meeting – Feb. 8 following worship
- Connections Team Meeting – Feb. 10 @ 5:15 p.m.
- Worship Team Meeting – Feb. 15 following worship
- Ash Wednesday Service – Feb. 18 @ 6 p.m.
- Cookie Delivery – Feb. 20 @ 9 a.m.
- Praise Night – Feb. 22 @ 5 p.m.

## Weekly opportunities:

- Sunday morning Bible Study @ 9 a.m.
- Tuesday evening Bible Study @ 6 p.m.
- Wednesday morning Mom's Coffee @ 8:15 a.m.
- Wednesday afternoon KIDVENTURE @ 3:15 p.m.

Kids Worship for 4 year olds – 2nd grade meets every Sunday morning following the Lord's Prayer. Kids Worship EXTRA for 3rd-6th graders meets on the 2nd and 4th Sundays following the Lord's Prayer.



## Baked Potato Bar Sunday, Feb. 1

*(After Worship – Served “family style” at the tables)*

**We'll have potatoes  
& all the toppings as well as  
BBQ Pulled Pork!**

**VBS Fundraiser!!! Donations appreciated.**

This Sunday is our **VBS Fundraiser!** We could still use a little help with the preparations. Click [HERE](#) to sign up!

# Mark your calendars

**FCC Summer Camp** - June 15-18  
for those completing 2<sup>nd</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grades

**“Rainforest Falls” Vacation Bible School**  
July 13 - 16

Start your day with coffee and friends



**Mom's Coffee Group**

WEDNESDAYS

8:15 - 9:30 A.M.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF GUTHRIE

402 E. NOBLE AVE. - ENTER @ WEST DOOR

Coffee, a light snack, discussion & devotion Children welcome

**TIME TO Celebrate**

## Birthdays this week

### January

- 27 - Ryan Biggs
- 28 - Gregg Gumerson  
Morgan Joy
- 29 - Treva Seals
- 30 - Waylon Ball
- 31 - Brandon Tontz

**No Anniversaries  
this week**

### February

- 1 - Bill Bowles  
Kathryn Smith  
Zachary Allen
  - 2 - Luke Gill
- Birthdays and anniversaries are listed for the upcoming week. If your information is missing, please contact the church office.

# Prayer

**We pray for our church family:** Mike Carey (surgery 1/27), Gene Owen, Nicole Linker, Phil Pingel, Linda Pingel, Kathryn Smith, Ally Carey, Francie Krittenbrink, Jennifer Bounds, Marie Lynch, Dennis Lynch, Ron Fields, Bill Bowles, Vicki and Katie Williams, Yancey Family, Bobby Davison, Anna Frey, Sarah Schlueter, Denise Shoun, James Johnston, Steve Ochs, Gene Owen, Mike Carey, Diana Dewart, Ruth Underwood, Arnold Burkett

**Our church family currently in rehab/assisted living/nursing home:** Cynthia Baker, Dorothy Smith, Jane Weeks

**We pray for our friends and family members:** Michelle Beam, Jacob Davis, McCoy Paulk, Rodney Myers, Scarlett Koenke, Deborah Hutchison, Edna Hellman, Barbara Sanchez, Randy Goodnow, Debbie Bradley, Ed Hacker, Gary Bailey, Levi McMellian, Brandy Carey, Missy Lansdowne, Melvin and Barbara Leathers, Margaret Eldridge, Dale Owen, Ed Stevenson & family, Pam Timmons, Dawn Brower, Mike Damron, Gail Davis, Janell Loesch, Patty Bradley, Patsy Schull, Amelia Valentino, Harriet Black, Lexy Carothers, Johnny McKee, Kristy Gatlin, Kade Warner, Madelyn Wehr, Cathy Joy, Flora Overstreet, Asher Houston, Mary Beth Gilliland, Teal Esmeyer

**And our military all over the world:** Natasha Okine, Patrick Hardin, Sonny Crick, Court Machtolff, Bonnie Epperson, Jonah Friese, Matt Byce, Braxton Canning, Nate Ames, Garrett Canning, Brent Walton, Connor and Megan Neyen

**Text “GIVE” to 405-645-6070 to  
donated to FCC Guthrie**

# Keeping Up With Karen

We finally found Winter and it came in with an attitude! I am thankful for all of those in our congregation who have been out and about in these difficult conditions helping others – healthcare workers, law enforcement, firefighters, street and parking lot crews, food service workers, and so many others. So often, many of us can just stay in and wait for it to pass, while others are out taking care of our needs. I am thankful for you!

As I had time to reflect this past weekend, I was thinking about how God has equipped each of us for “such a time as this,” as mentioned in the book of Esther. There are times in life when your role is crucial to the success of what is going on and then there are times in life when God gives us a period of rest. Being at home from Saturday through Monday, I was able to get some much-needed rest and time for reflection on where we are as a church. I was able to think about my role and the roles of others and consider how God sees us at work in the world. Sometimes the gifts and talents we share are an immediate need, while other times it’s a “work in progress” as we work toward what’s next.

A few weeks ago, I put out some sign-ups for various things in the church, including a sign-up for the Bereavement Team, Meal Ministry Team, Cookie Ministry Team, and Small Dinner Groups. I will continue to put out new sign-ups each week, as I feel like there is a place for everyone to serve. I would love to see someone step up and take on the leadership of the Meal Ministry Team. I have been coordinating it for several years and while I don’t mind it, it is something that I feel confident someone else could do. It is a position that someone can do from home and is only needed once a month or sometimes less than that. It is dictated by when someone is ill or needs an extra boost and could use some meal assistance. We have an amazing team of 25 people who are willing to help with meals when called upon. As coordinator, your role would be to contact them when a need arises. I would give you all the information as far as when someone needs meals, days for delivery, allergies, likes/dislikes, etc. The people you contact make the meals and deliver them. You would simply be coordinating the effort.

Another position that would be helpful to have is a Bereavement Team Coordinator. Currently, I am doing that as well and as I considered it, it would easily be a role that could be handled by someone who has a few extra hours during the month. As with the Meal Ministry, this is a role that only happens as needed. Once there is a death, I would reach out and let you know the date of the meal, anticipated attendance, and food preferences. We have 42 people who are available to bring side dishes and 20 who can work. The Coordinator would reach out to people to fill slots for the meal. You may or may not need to work at the meals, so this could easily be a role done by someone who is at home.

If you are interested in either of these positions, let me know and we can talk. As we move into this new year, I look forward to getting some new leaders in position and freeing myself up to do other ministries!

God bless and have a great, warm week!

*Karen*

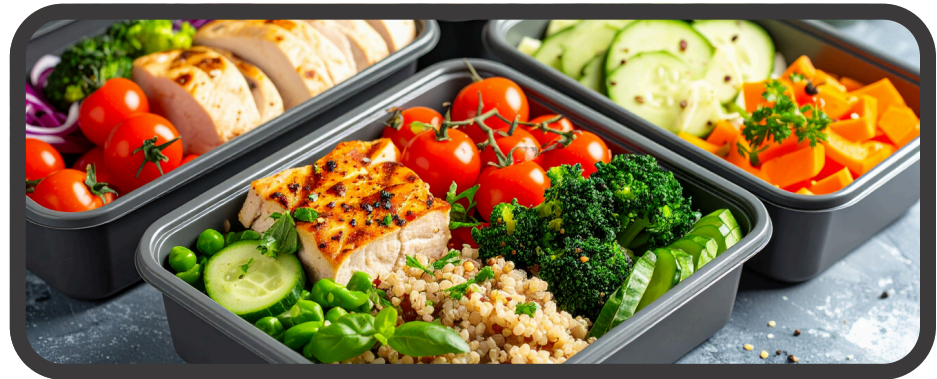
# JOIN THE... BEREAVEMENT TEAM MINISTRY

**Looking for a place to get involved?** We would love to have you on our list of people to call to help with a meal whenever we have a family that is grieving a loss. If you are able to make a side dish (veggie, salad, or dessert) and drop it off for a meal, we can add you to the contact list to help in that way. If you are able to help prep, serve and clean-up after dinners, we can add you to that contact list.

**How it works:** Once we know of a death in our church family and the funeral is set, we offer the family a meal. Karen will reach out via text or e-mail to see if you are available to bring a side dish or help. If you are busy and can't help with a particular meal, that's fine, we will reach out for a different meal. Side dishes need to feed about 10-12 people typically (so a casserole dish size, or serving bowl size).

**How to sign-up:** Contact Karen via text at 405-615-2240 or e-mail at [karenkallen1@gmail.com](mailto:karenkallen1@gmail.com) and let her know how you'd like to help!

Made  
with  
Love



## MEAL MINISTRY TEAM IS LOOKING FOR A LEADER!

We are in need of a person to head-up our Meal Ministry Team. This person would be in charge of reaching out to those who have signed up to make meals for those in need following a hospital stay, birth of a new baby, or someone in need of extra support. The leader would be given a list of contacts to reach out to when a need arises and would be alerted by the church staff to arrange meals. Typically, we deliver two to three meals over the course of 6-7 days to a family. The individuals you contact are responsible for delivery. Your role would simply be coordinating and can be done via text, e-mail [karenkallen1@gmail.com](mailto:karenkallen1@gmail.com) or phone call.

# Dinner Group Signups for February-May!

It's time to shuffle and re-sign up for Small Dinner Groups. Our last groups ended in December with more than 60 of you participating. We hope to continue to grow this ministry. On Sunday, there will be a sign-up in the entryway. We will do it a little different this time and let you choose the group you want to be in based on your preferences. Groups will be listed by type of group – restaurants, in-home, at the church – as well as preference for with or without children and whether you prefer meeting on a particular night of the week or weekend. We encourage you to round up some people you know and don't know and create a group. We will also be adding in a weekly Bible Study group that has dinners once a month, so if you are interested in this type of group, it will be available as well. The groups will meet three times over the course of four months (Feb-May). Then, we will break for June and July and shuffle again in August.

Sign-up [HERE!](#)



**LEADERSHIP RETREAT**  
for  
**ELDERS, STAFF,  
BOARD OFFICERS,  
TRUSTEES & TEAM  
LEADERS**

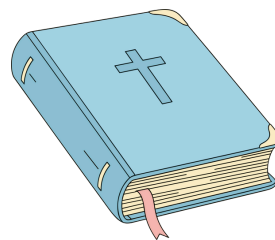
**FEBRUARY 22**  
**FOLLOWING WORSHIP**

## Women's Bible Study Options!

Karen sent out a link via e-mail for all of the women in the church to give some feedback on what day of the week would be best for a Bible Study. I have been grateful for the responses of 47 women! We are definitely narrowing in on what works best for the majority. If you haven't had a chance to respond, please click [HERE](#) to sign up.

I look forward to reporting the results in next week's News and Events.

**#FCCAAllIn**



# Mother's Day Out

## RECAP

This school year is flying by. So far this year we have painted the Dragonflies classroom, the Butterflies classroom, and the Bumblebees classroom. It is amazing how much a few coats of paint can update a space. I am also proud to say that we are fully staffed and our enrollment is at full capacity. We are truly blessed!



Amazon Wish List



## Other notes

Spring break we will paint the Ladybugs class. The last day of school will be May 21; the following week we will paint the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor hall. We still have a long way to go, but we are so happy with the progress!

WORD OF WONDER: How great God is! We'll never completely understand Him. —Job 36:26a

## upcoming events

- Feb. 3: Scholastic orders due
- Feb. 12: Valentines Parties
- Feb 26: Pizza Day



## LET'S connect

The Connections Team will be meeting on Tuesday Feb. 10 at 5 p.m. in the Sanctuary Classroom.

Please join us to help plan our upcoming events and to connect with our church family!



Join us on March 1 after worship for our 1st Sunday luncheon and Lucky Bingo!

We are also accepting prize donations for Lucky Bingo. Small toys, candy, etc. would all be great! Gift cards are also appreciated and a big hit! Please take donations to Karen's office.



# WONDER TRUTH:

Jesus Cares for Everyone

# SCRIPTURE:

Luke 17



# GOD'S BIG STORY:

Jesus shows great care for 10 men with leprosy when He heals them and then honors the faith of one, a Samaritan, who expresses gratitude.

# MEMORY VERSE:

God so loved the world. He gave His one and only Son. =  
from John 3:16



AGE: 5 YEARS OLD - 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE  
FEBRUARY 4 - MARCH 11, 2026  
WEDNESDAY'S AFTER SCHOOL  
3:15PM - 4:45PM



# Free youth

**APPRECIATION DAYS** 🤪

**MON  
26TH**

**SNOW SCHOOL**  
YOU'RE WELCOME



**TACO TUESDAY**  
TACO BELL - COME HAVE A TACO OR TWO  
OR TAKE SOMETHING TO GO!

**TUES  
27TH**  
6-7 PM



**WED  
28TH**  
LUNCH

**LUNCH DELIVERY**  
GODFATHER'S PIZZA OR SUBWAY -  
ORDER BY 9AM ON WED



**MEET AT MISSY'S**  
BY THE HIGH SCHOOL - COME & GO

**THURS  
29TH**  
7:15-8 AM



**FRI  
30TH**  
LUNCH

**SONIC DRINK**  
ORDER BY 10 ON FRI MORNING



**FOR GHS & GJHS**

**DETAILS FOR OTHER STUDENTS  
MADE INDIVIDUALLY**

**YOU KNOW THE DRILL  
BUT IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS,  
CONTACT STACI @ 405-831-5509**

# Join us on the YouVersion Bible App!

YouVersion Reading Plan - 2026 January-February					
Date	YouVersion Plan	Length of Plan	Date	YouVersion Plan	Length of Plan
1-Jan	Decoding & Overcoming Phone Addiction	4 Days	31-Jan	Face to Face Prayer In a text messaging world	6 Days
2-Jan	Decoding & Overcoming Phone Addiction	4 Days	1-Feb	Face to Face Prayer In a text messaging world	6 Days
3-Jan	Decoding & Overcoming Phone Addiction	4 Days	2-Feb	Choosing What's Best in a Busy World	5 Days
4-Jan	Decoding & Overcoming Phone Addiction	4 Days	3-Feb	Choosing What's Best in a Busy World	5 Days
5-Jan	Distraction: The enemy of Direction	7 Days	4-Feb	Choosing What's Best in a Busy World	5 Days
6-Jan	Distraction: The enemy of Direction	7 Days	5-Feb	Choosing What's Best in a Busy World	5 Days
7-Jan	Distraction: The enemy of Direction	7 Days	6-Feb	Choosing What's Best in a Busy World	5 Days
8-Jan	Distraction: The enemy of Direction	7 Days	7-Feb	Lead Through Prayer	5 Days
9-Jan	Distraction: The enemy of Direction	7 Days	8-Feb	Lead Through Prayer	5 Days
10-Jan	Distraction: The enemy of Direction	7 Days	9-Feb	Lead Through Prayer	5 Days
11-Jan	Distraction: The enemy of Direction	7 Days	10-Feb	Lead Through Prayer	5 Days
12-Jan	Friendship	7 Days	11-Feb	Lead Through Prayer	5 Days
13-Jan	Friendship	7 Days	12-Feb	Make That Break That	5 Days
14-Jan	Friendship	7 Days	13-Feb	Make That Break That	5 Days
15-Jan	Friendship	7 Days	14-Feb	Make That Break That	5 Days
16-Jan	Friendship	7 Days	15-Feb	Make That Break That	5 Days
17-Jan	Friendship	7 Days	16-Feb	Make That Break That	5 Days
18-Jan	Friendship	7 Days	17-Feb	Ashes to Ashes	6 Days
19-Jan	Seen, heard, & Understood	7 Days	18-Feb	Ashes to Ashes	6 Days
20-Jan	Seen, heard, & Understood	7 Days	19-Feb	Ashes to Ashes	6 Days
21-Jan	Seen, heard, & Understood	7 Days	20-Feb	Ashes to Ashes	6 Days
22-Jan	Seen, heard, & Understood	7 Days	21-Feb	Ashes to Ashes	6 Days
23-Jan	Seen, heard, & Understood	7 Days	22-Feb	Ashes to Ashes	6 Days
24-Jan	Seen, heard, & Understood	7 Days	23-Feb	Who is this Man?	6 Days
25-Jan	Seen, heard, & Understood	7 Days	24-Feb	Who is this Man?	6 Days
26-Jan	Face to Face Prayer In a text messaging world	6 Days	25-Feb	Who is this Man?	6 Days
27-Jan	Face to Face Prayer In a text messaging world	6 Days	26-Feb	Who is this Man?	6 Days
28-Jan	Face to Face Prayer In a text messaging world	6 Days	27-Feb	Who is this Man?	6 Days
29-Jan	Face to Face Prayer In a text messaging world	6 Days	28-Feb	Who is this Man?	6 Days
30-Jan	Face to Face Prayer In a text messaging world	6 Days			

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.

Having trouble connecting? Text or call Karen at 405-615-2240 or catch her after worship. Pick up a copy of the reading plan at the welcome center!