

# December 2025 Newsletter

***The First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Perry is a family that finds ways of supporting growth through the connection of worship and the compassionate care of our church members and community.***



## Attendance Report:

	8:15 AM	10:30 AM	6:00 PM	YouTube
11/9/25	N/A	111	15	14
11/16/25	44	76	19	9
11/23/25	42	73	N/A	11
11/30/25	32	78	21	26

## Giving Report

11/9/25	General	\$3,646.00
11/9/25	Memorials	\$225.00
11/9/25	Restricted Youth Camps	\$100.00
11/9/25	Restricted-Food Baskets	\$25.00
11/9/25	Restricted-Poinsettias	\$54.00
11/16/25	General	\$7,917.00
11/16/25	Memorial	\$365.00
11/16/25	Restricted-Poinsettias	\$90.00
11/16/25	Special-Thanksgiving	\$10.00
11/16/25	Restricted-Barry Cook	\$350.00
11/16/25	Special-Christmas	\$20.00
11/23/25	General	\$3,222.00
11/23/25	Restricted-Youth Camps	\$50.00
11/23/25	Restricted-Poinsettias	\$18.00
11/23/25	Special-Thanksgiving	\$400.00
11/23/25	Restricted-Thanksgiving boxes	\$100.00
11/30/25	General	\$5,776.00
11/30/25	Restricted-Youth Camps	\$200.00
11/30/25	Restricted-Poinsettias	\$54.00
11/30/25	Restricted-Memorials	\$200.00
11/30/25	Subsplash	1,691.88
11/30/25	ACH	\$800.00
Total:		\$25,313.88

## Christmas Parade on the Square

FCC Perry will participate in the Christmas Parade downtown on Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to be a part of that, please see Tessa Thompson. Sign up in the narthex.



The church office will be closed  
December 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> & Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> &  
Jan 1<sup>st</sup>.



# Christian Men's Fellowship Breakfast

DECEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup>

7:00 AM



December 21st-24th

## First Christian Church's LIVE NATIVITY

December 21<sup>st</sup> 6:00 PM- 8:00 PM

December 22<sup>nd</sup> 6:00 PM-8:00 PM

December 23<sup>rd</sup> 6:00 PM- 8:00 PM

December 24<sup>th</sup> 6:00 PM-7:30 PM



701 Holly St. Perry, OK.

First Christian Church

CHRISTMAS EVE

Candlelight  
SERVICE

Wednesday, December 24

8:00 PM

Join us for a heartwarming night filled with peace, hope,  
and joy! Let the soft glow of candlelight, uplifting carols,  
and a message of love guide you into the spirit of the season.

701 Holly St. Perry, OK

## December Birthdays

Austin Weiher 12/1  
Dustin Dunn 12/1  
April Bond 12/1  
Luke Wilson 12/2  
Chad Wilson 12/3  
Cecil Loveless 12/6  
Marcus Davis 12/7  
Valerie Sandy 12/7  
Strauss Karcher 12/8  
Hunter Knott 12/9  
Carmen Tetik 12/9  
Kevin Bond 12/9  
Fran Blocker 12/9  
Chris Thompson 12/9  
Anne Sheets 12/11  
Nolan Barrientos 12/12  
Willie Sheets 12/12  
Kassy Groom 12/13  
Brynlee Bolay 12/13  
Lacey Klinglesmith 12/13  
Kim McLain 12/15  
Robert Cunningham 12/15  
Matt Klinglesmith 12/17  
Will Anderson 12/19  
Elise Capps 12/20  
Willow Karcher 12/21  
Randy Parrish 12/22  
Joyce Choplin 12/23  
Virgil Beckner 12/23  
Jay Eby 12/24  
Jaymi Thompson 12/24  
David Blocker 12/26  
Gary Moore 12/30  
David Frazier (Sr.) 12/31  
Johnny Fuller 12/31

## December Anniversaries

Jim & Mollye Henley 12/1  
David & Fran Blocker 12/28



# Josh's Jottings



## The Gift of Togetherness

A Christmas Story of Small Town Grace In the heart of a vast and bustling world, there lay a small town named Willowbrook, nestled quietly beneath the glow of twinkling December skies. Life in Willowbrook moved at a gentle pace; neighbors greeted one another by name, and the crisp winter air carried the sounds of children laughing as they built snowmen along peaceful lanes. Yet, even here, the hurried rhythms of the world seemed to creep in—work schedules pressed on, chores piled up, and time together felt all too rare.

As Christmas approached, the Smith family felt those demands most keenly. Martha Smith, a mother of three, balanced her bakery's holiday rush with the needs of her lively children, while her husband, Tom, juggled shifts at the town's only hardware store. Their evenings were often a blur of quick dinners and last-minute errands, leaving little room for the quiet moments they cherished.

One chilly evening, as snowflakes dusted the windowpanes, Martha gathered her family in the living room. "Let's pause tonight," she said softly. "Let's remember what matters most." They lit a single candle in the Advent wreath, passed around mugs of cocoa, and opened a worn family Bible. By the flickering light, they read the Christmas story together, their voices weaving old words into new meaning. They prayed, sang carols, and shared hopes for the days ahead. For the first time that season, the rush of the world faded, replaced by laughter, warmth, and a sense of sacred togetherness.

Throughout Willowbrook, other families embraced the same gentle pause—sharing meals, visiting neighbors, and coming together to worship in the tiny, snow-covered church at the edge of town. Though the world outside bustled on, inside their homes and hearts, the people of Willowbrook found what truly made Christmas bright: the gift of being together, of loving and serving one another, and of keeping Christ at the center of their celebrations.

In that small town, wrapped in winter's hush, the miracle of Christmas shone brightest not in grand gestures or glittering gifts, but in the simple moments of grace and gratitude shared in the company of those they loved.

### The Importance of Taking Time for Family and Worship

In today's fast-paced world, it's easy to find ourselves caught up in endless tasks, commitments, and distractions. Yet, as members of the church and followers of Christ, we are called to pause, reflect, and cherish the moments spent with our loved ones and with God. Prioritizing time with family and worship is not just a matter of personal well-being—it is a spiritual discipline that strengthens our faith and deepens our relationships.

### Why Family Time Matters

Family is a precious gift from God. The Bible reminds us that we are called to love, support, and encourage one another. Spending quality time with family allows us to nurture bonds, teach values, and model Christ-like love. Whether sharing a meal, having heartfelt conversations, or simply enjoying each other's company, these moments create lasting memories and build a foundation of trust and unity.





In the book of Deuteronomy, we are encouraged to teach God's commands diligently to our children—when we sit at home, walk along the road, lie down, and get up. This daily presence and intentional time together are vital for passing down faith from generation to generation.

### Prioritizing Worship in Daily Life

Worship is at the heart of our relationship with God. It is not limited to Sunday mornings or church gatherings; it is meant to be an ongoing part of our lives. Taking moments to pray, read Scripture, and sing praises—either alone or with family—helps us refocus, find peace, and draw closer to the Lord.

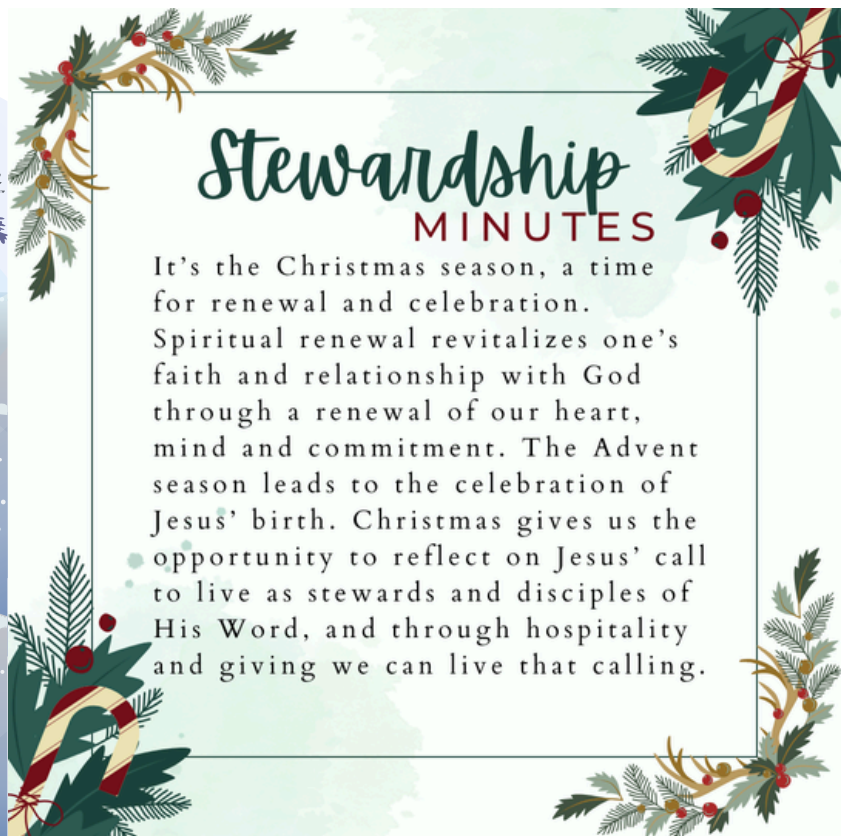
When we set aside intentional time for worship, we invite God's presence into our homes and hearts. These moments can transform ordinary days into sacred experiences, reminding us of God's love and faithfulness.

### **Practical Ways to Foster Family and Worship Time**

- Family Devotions: Set aside regular times to read the Bible and pray together.
- Shared Meals: Use mealtimes to connect, share gratitude, and discuss faith.
- Attend Church Together: Participate in worship services and church events as a family.
- Worship at Home: Sing hymns, listen to worship music, and encourage spontaneous prayer.
- Limit Distractions: Create tech-free zones or times dedicated to family and worship.

### **A Call to Action**

Let us remember that making time for family and worship is an act of obedience and love. As a church community, let's encourage one another to slow down, be present, and honor God in our homes. By doing so, we build stronger families, deeper faith, and a more vibrant church family. May we be inspired to cherish both the ordinary and sacred moments of togetherness, knowing that in every gathering—big or small—God is at the center.





# Stewardship Suggestions

## December Acts of Kindness



7

Volunteer for a couple of hours.

1 Send a postcard to someone you haven't talked to in a while.

8

Donate some books.

2 Donate 5 items you don't need.

9 Check in on friends you haven't talked to in a while.

3 Share some cookies with a neighbor or friend.

10 Share a good recipe with a friend who loves cooking.

4 Surprise your partner or a family member with a small gift.

11 Write a thank-you email to someone who had a positive impact on your life.

5 Send an inspiring message to a friend.

12 Get coffee for a friend, co-worker, or someone in line behind you.

6 Offer to run an errand for a family member or close friend.

13 Help a family member decorate their house for the holidays.

14 Be kind to yourself and do at least one self-care activity today.

15 Send an encouraging message to a friend or family member.

16 Leave some treats for the delivery drivers.

17 Let someone go ahead of you in the line.

18 Take a friend out for coffee to catch up.

19 Bring snacks to work or any gathering you have today.

20 Treat yourself to a small gift today.

21 Donate any warm coats and blankets you don't need.

22 Give a sincere compliment to someone you're close to.

23 Help someone out with a project they have.

24 Be kind to yourself and do one relaxing activity today.

25 Take a family/friend photo and frame it later as gifts to people in the photo.

26 Cook brunch or treat someone to brunch today.

27 Share an inspirational quote or message with friends and family.

28 Tell someone how much you appreciate them.

29 Help a family member or someone close to you with chores.

30 Keep a positive attitude and only share positive things.

31 Be kind to yourself and celebrate going into 2026 the way you want to.



O & H

Ordinary & Happy



# FCC CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

11/23 "A Hometown Christmas" Hanging of the Greens  
Service 4:00 PM

11/30 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent (Hope): Chancel Choir  
Performance of: "Child of Promise" & duet with Rev. Dr.  
Joshua Bell & Paula Shryock 8:15 AM & 10:30 AM

12/6 FCC Perry will participate in the Christmas Parade on  
the Square

12/7 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent (Peace) Bell Choir Performance  
of "Do You Hear What I Hear?" 8:15 AM & 10:30 AM

12/7 Birthday Party for Jesus 9:30 AM

12/14 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent (Joy) High School Instrumental  
Ensemble 8:15 AM & 10:30 AM

12/21 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent (Love) Chancel Choir  
Performance of "Baby in a Manger" 8:15AM & 10:30 AM

12/21 Live Nativity 6:00 PM- 8:00 PM

12/22 Live Nativity 6:00 PM- 8:00 PM

12/23 Live Nativity 6:00 PM- 8:00 PM

12/24 Live Nativity 6:00 PM -7:30 PM

12/24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 8:00 PM

12/28 Christmastide 10:30 AM service only. Choir  
performance of "Glory to God"

1/4: Epiphany 10:30 AM service only. Solo performed by  
Paula Shryock "One King"



2 Corinthians 9:15  
Thanks be to God  
for His  
indescribable gift!





# ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING – 2025

The following people and families will be lighting the Advent candles during this wonderful Advent season.

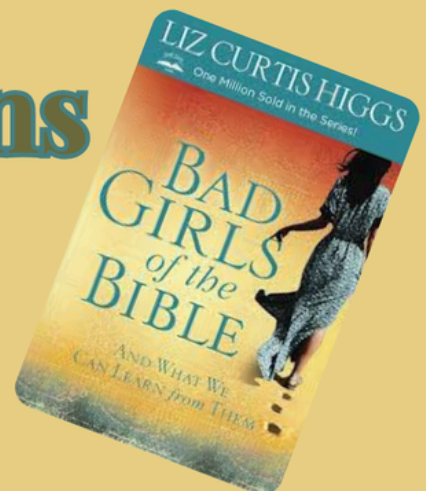
- Nov. 30      1st Sunday in Advent – HOPE  
                    8:15    Angie Schweer and Bob Bornt  
                    10:30   Chad, Maranda, and Luke Wilson
- Dec. 7        2nd Sunday in Advent – PEACE  
                    8:15    Mike and Stacey Wilda  
                    10:30   Derek, Chelsie, and Emily Taylor
- Dec. 14      3rd Sunday in Advent – JOY  
                    8:15    David and Deah Sharp  
                    10:30   Jordan Carris and boys
- Dec. 21      4th Sunday in Advent – LOVE  
                    8:15    Jerry and Patti Sylvester  
                    10:30   Emily and Claire Androes



## *Bad Girls of the Bible*

**Book Study begins  
January 6th!**

Thursdays @ 10:00 AM.  
(10-week course)





# Announcements

## Reoccurring Events:

**Sunday School :** Sundays at 9:30 AM

**Sunday Worship Services:** 8:15 AM 10:30 AM

**Grace After Sundown** Sundays 6:00 PM

**Caraway Street:** 3rd Sunday at 9:30 AM.

**Disciples Kids:** Wednesday after school

**Youth:** Sundays at 5:00 PM

**Chancel Choir:** Wednesdays @ 6:00 PM  
(except when Board meetings are scheduled.)

**Bell Choir:** Wednesdays @ 7:00PM (except  
when Board meetings are scheduled.)

**Bible Study:** Bible Study Tuesdays at 9:00 AM

**Disciples Women:** 3rd Thursday of the month  
6:00 PM

**Quilters:** Thursdays 1:00 PM

**Pickleball:** Tuesdays & Fridays at 10:00 AM

**Christian Women's Fellowship:** Events  
scheduled throughout the year.

**Christian Men's Fellowship breakfast:** 3rd  
Saturday of the month 7:00 AM.



## Merry Christmas

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
(Disciples of Christ)  
701 Holly St.  
Perry, OK 73077  
580-335-4576



Rev. Dr. Joshua Bell, Sr. Minister  
Shiloah Kennedy, Administrative Assistant  
Emily Androes, Children's Ministry Coordinator  
Paula Shryock, Music Director  
Nancy Wells, Organist  
Karen Douglass, Pianist  
Bobby Cunningham, AV tech  
Ted Loring, AV Tech  
Sharon Worrell, Custodian

*Thank you for reading!*

## Christmas Store