

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

FAMILY NEWS



Hello Church Family!

As Lenten Season comes to a close, we look forward to celebrating the most significant events in the history of the world! But, what do we *call* the day Jesus was raised?

The English monk of the 7th/8th cents., Bede, states that the month of April was called “Eostre” because where he lived there was a goddess of the same name. It’s unclear if there really was a goddess by that name,

but the name, “Easter,” almost certainly derives from this old English term, “Eostre,” which correlates to Spring/April. This is probably why flowers, bunnies, and eggs were introduced into the season (which have nothing to do with Jesus’s resurrection, of course). Nevertheless, for many, the day Jesus was raised is called, “Easter.”

But, for centuries before this, Christians didn’t call this special day, “Easter.” And, for close to a billion Christians today, it’s still not called, “Easter.” Here’s why. The Jewish Passover feast moves around on the calendar because it follows the moon’s cycles. And since we know that Jesus’s last meal with His disciples was associated with the Passover, (most) ancient Christians celebrated Jesus’s resurrection three days after the Passover feast, wherever that date fell each year. Most Christians for centuries spoke Greek and/or Latin. They called the day Jesus was raised, “*Pascha*” (from the Aramaic and Hebrew, “*Pesach*,” for our word, “Passover”). The other title commonly used was “Resurrection Sunday.” These two titles are still used by a huge portion of Christians around the world: *Pascha* or *Resurrection Sunday*.

If we didn’t follow the lunar calendar, but just celebrated Jesus’s death and resurrection on a fixed day, when would it be? Scholars are divided, but for various historical reasons, Jesus’s death probably occurred around 3pm on Friday, April 3, 33. This would put His resurrection around Sunday, April 5, 33.

Most importantly, why celebrate Jesus’s death and resurrection? What’s the significance?

Jesus’s death *did* something. He wasn’t just a good example for us to follow; His death wasn’t just a symbol. Not only did Jesus’s death demonstrate an unfathomable love for us (Rom. 5:8; Eph. 5:2; 1 John 3:16), His death also condemned sin (Rom. 8:3), defeated death itself (2 Tim. 1:10), allowed us to be declared righteous (Rom. 5:9), allowed us to be reconciled with the Father (Rom. 5:10), gave us the ability to be raised to new life (1 Thess. 5:10), and ransomed us, redeemed us, set us free, from the power of evil and sin (Mark 10:45; Gal. 3:13-14; 1 Tim. 2:6; 1 Pet. 1:18-19). When Jesus died, it affected all of history and humanity. And all of us who have repented of our sins and reoriented our lives in Him are part of His new family, set free to live the lives He intended.



Jesus’s resurrection *did* something. Not only did Jesus’s resurrection demonstrate that the Father vindicated Jesus (e.g., Acts 2:24; 3:15), but His resurrection also defeated death (Rom. 6:9), allows us to live a “new life” (Rom. 6:4; 8:11)—as if we’re reigning right now in the heavenly realms (Eph. 2:6; Col. 2:12; 3:1), makes us righteous/justified before the Father (Rom. 4:25), and guarantees that we, too, will be raised in a resurrection body (1 Cor. 6:14; 2 Cor. 4:14).



Jesus’s death and resurrection are the absolute center of the Christian faith. There is nothing more central. There is nothing more necessary. There is nothing more urgent to share.

I really hope that you’ll commit to being a part of this special season of the church! Two significant events take place on Good Friday, April 14th, at First Christian. On that Friday, anyone can sign-up in the Fellowship Hall to pray in 30-min segments, from 6am to 6pm, especially in the sanctuary. Then, at 6pm, you’ll want to come celebrate Good Friday service. Two days later, at the Clinton Lake Gazebo, we’ll have a spectacular Sunrise Service at 6am (See [Facebook Events](#) for more info.). At FCC, we’ll have our Traditional Service at 9am, a free breakfast at 10am in the Fellowship Hall, and our Modern Service at 11am.

Who are you inviting to church? I cannot stress the importance of a personal invitation. It’s still one of the most effective ways of introducing Christianity, or a local church, to someone. Yes, the person might say, “No, thank you.” But, the person might say, “Sure, when is the service?” You don’t know if you don’t ask. Please commit to asking your neighbors, co-workers, family members, and friends.

In the love of the One “who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from this present evil age according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be glory forever and ever! Amen.” (Gal. 1:4-5 NET)

David

David W. Pendergrass, Ph.D.
Senior Pastor

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS



Hello Church!

I pray that you have had a wonderful month full of life and joy that naturally comes as spring time arrives. YTH has enjoyed a season of renewal and growth over the past few months and we are excited for the things to come. As we prepare for the Resurrection season, we have journeyed on the Heroes path, seeing the model characteristics of the Old Testament characters as we propel into the real hero of our faith, Jesus, the son of Joseph. In the process, we have learned that faith and obedience are two fundamental characteristics we have to attain as we seek to do God's will in our own personal life and to those we interact with in school, sports, or other activities.

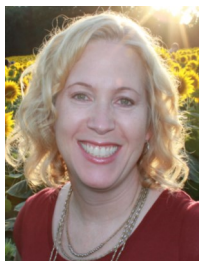


As we are approaching April, we are seeking the presence of God all the more by diving more intentionally into our community. Towards the end of March and beginning of April, YTH will have attended Young Christian's Weekend where we were able to build community and worship together with hundreds of other teenagers from across the Midwest. On top of that, we will be having communion as part of our YTH Night during the Holy Week to remember the sacrifice that Jesus made for us. Please be praying for us and our community to bond and become healthy as family.

Shalom,
Kiyun Lee (Pastor to Youth and College)

  @fcc_yth  fbl.me/fccyth

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS



Spring reminds us of the new life that we receive through the death and resurrection of Jesus. Before we can fully appreciate his death, though, we must know what Jesus did during his life on Earth.

In March, the FCC Kids learned about the life of Jesus. They learned what Jesus taught, how he performed miracles and how he healed people. We enter April knowing more about Jesus as we continue in the Lenten season.



April affords us the chance to celebrate the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. April 9th is Palm Sunday, and the children will help to reenact the triumphal entrance Jesus made into Jerusalem. Between Worship Services, the FCC Kids will have a Palm Sunday Party.

All FCC Kids (and church families) are invited to bring real or artificial flowers to church on April 16th, Resurrection Sunday. We will add life to a wooden cross to show that Jesus is no longer on the cross. He paid for our sins and was raised to new life!



Flowering trees and green grass signify growth, and FCC Kids is also growing. In the past few months, our average attendance has doubled, and more volunteers are needed. Contact Elaine Pendergrass at elaine@fcclawrence.org for more information.

Elaine W. Pendergrass (Pastor to Children)

 FCCLawrenceKids

THE GIVING TREE PRESCHOOL NEWS



The month of March brought forth many blessings to The Giving Tree. On St. Patrick's Day, we held our second annual Parking Lot Fundraiser. Parking spaces for the parade were available for a \$5 donation and we raised \$630. All proceeds went toward The Giving Tree Scholarship Fund. Thank you to everyone who volunteered your time to raise funds to help families in need of tuition assistance. If you

would like to make a donation, please note The Giving Tree Scholarship Fund on your offering envelope or on the memo line on your check. This is truly a blessing to several of our families.



We are looking forward to the spring season at The Giving Tree. I love this time of year, especially with all the changes taking place in nature. Spring provides the opportunity to view firsthand all the beauty God creates as the grass begins to green, flowers and trees bloom, birds sing, baby animals are born. More importantly, this time of year gives us the chance to reflect and remember the sacrifice Jesus made for all of us here on Earth. It is personally humbling to have the opportunity to share the Good News with our preschool children. The Easter story along with current changes in nature provides a visual connection that Jesus is New Life. We are all children of the risen Lord. Have a blessed Easter season!

We are continuing to enroll for the 2017-2018 school year. Please contact The Giving Tree for more information.

Julie Hafenstine (The Giving Tree Preschool Director)

www.lawrencepreschool.com



TheGivingTreePreschool



WORSHIP MINISTRY NEWS



FCC Family,

March has been a busy month for the Worship Ministry at First Christian. We kicked off the Lent season with our Ash Wednesday Service on March 1st. We utilized elements of traditional and modern music, scripture, prayer, communion, and ash implementation to bring a service of somber reflection to our congregation.

I have enjoyed planning, communicating, and working alongside the members of First Christian to bring our worship services to life. The common goal of making disciples has been our guiding compass. I look forward to utilizing worship as a tool to guide individuals to a deeper relationship with God, especially through our upcoming special services.

I'm personally inviting you to be a part of these upcoming services.

April 9 (Palm Sunday)

9 am - Traditional Service
10 am - FREE Children's Party
11 am - Modern Service

April 14 (Good Friday)

6am to 6pm - Call to Prayer
6pm - Good Friday Service

April 16 (Resurrection Sunday)

6am - Sunrise Service (Clinton Park Gazebo)
9 am - Traditional Service
10am - FREE Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)
11 am - Modern Service

May you find joy in worshipping God in the coming weeks,
Matthew Mulnix (Modern Worship Leader)

TRANSIT COLLEGE MINISTRY



Transit College Ministry is a ministry dedicated to multiplying disciples. One of the most memorable conversations we had at Transit in the last month was our conversation on what it means to be a follower of Jesus. We asked questions such as, "why would we ever want to follow Jesus?", "what does it look like to follow Jesus?" and "what does Jesus require of us as his follower?" As followers of Jesus, we are called to commune with Him and to obey Him in the things that He commands of us. Being a disciple means to love God more than anything else in this world. We are excited to see the growth that is awaiting us as Transit.



On April 28th, Transit will be having another worship night that will bring together all the college students across the campus. Transit Spring will consist of great food, the body of Christ coming together in unity, and worshipping God, who created and sustains us, through song. Please be praying for this worship night as we seek to be moved by the powerful presence of the Holy Spirit and be changed forever by it.

Shalom,
Kiyun Lee (Pastor to Youth and College)

 @fcctransit  fcctransit

STEWARDSHIP

Below are the YTD totals for the Unified Budget at the end of February 2017. We are showing net income for the year of \$4,945. At the end of February we should be at 16.67% of the budget, income is at 16.41% and expenses at 15.45%.

Unified Budget through February 28, 2017

YTD Income	\$ 80,214.00	YTD Expenses	\$ 75,269.00	YTD Net Income/(Loss)	\$ 4,945.00
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One way First Christian shows its love and support for the Youth of the Church is to provide \$500.00 scholarships to qualified students who wish to further their education beyond High School. At the March meeting, the Trustees approved and awarded scholarships for the 2017-2018 academic year. Congratulations to the following applicants, Hannah Reussner, Bob Eiesle, and Sam Thomas. We wish these students much success and God's continued blessing upon their educational endeavors.

The Trustee Scholarship Fund has been underwritten by generous donations given by various members of First Christian. If you are interested in contributing to this fund, please contact Lisa in the Finance Office. If you would like to apply for a scholarship in the future, scholarship forms and policies can be picked up in the main church office. The deadline for applications for the 2018-2019 academic year will be January 12, 2018.

To Give

Online - fcclawrence.org - Click the "Give" button

Phone - Text fcclawrence to 77977

Offering Plate - Each Sunday

Mail - First Christian Church, 1000 Kentucky St, Lawrence, KS 66044

Tell them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, to be generous givers, sharing with others. In this way they will save up a treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the future and so lay hold of what is truly life.

1 Timothy 6:18-19 (NET)

ELDERS

"Watch out for yourselves and for all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God that he obtained with the blood of his own Son." (Acts 20:28 NET)

This month, I'd like to recognize the remarkable work of two members of our congregation. The first is Linda Shirk, who has been making tremendous progress as Ministries Chair in the short time she has held the role. She has been meeting with members of each ministry team, assessing where the needs are, and working to fill any gaps. She reported on her efforts to the Elder Board in early March, and we continue to be encouraged by her commitment to ensure each ministry is operating at full force. Linda, thank you for your passionate attention to this role!

The second is Jim Congrove. Before I joined the Board in January, Jim was just another friendly face I saw on Sunday mornings. Since then, I have had the privilege of getting to know him and have been blessed by his leadership and challenged by his faith and his Christ-like love of others. Many of you have known Jim longer than I and could add to his list of accomplishments and attributes. After much prayer and deliberation, Jim has resigned his position as Elder chair and from the Elder Board. He has heard a call to contribute more time to the Care Ministry, particularly serving seniors who are homebound. Selfishly, the Board hoped he would change his mind, however, Sheri Penny, our vice-chair, has capably assumed the reins, and we will appoint a successor at our April meeting. Jim, we thank you for your time in leadership at FCC and pray for God's blessing on your "retirement."

As always, if you have prayer requests, questions, or concerns, please come find us between services or email us at elders@fcclawrence.org. We are here to serve you all, and we want to hear from you if we can be of assistance!

Lauren Mendoza



If anyone wants to serve me, he must follow me, and where I am, my servant will be too. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him. John 12:26 (NET)

OUTREACH MINISTRY NEWS



*I want you to share your
food with the hungry
and to provide shelter
for homeless, oppressed
people.
When you see someone
naked, clothe him! Isaiah
58:7 (NET)*



The Mission Statement of Family Promise is “to transform the lives of homeless children and their families by providing safe shelter, food, counseling, and training in partnership with local communities of faith through hospitality and daily living support in a compassionate setting. The program is designed to address the needs of families and equip them to move into permanent housing as quickly as possible.” More info can be found at www.lawrencefamilypromise.org, or by calling 785-764-9506.

First Christian is proud to partner with Lawrence Family Promise by hosting the program once a quarter, for one week. This involves housing, preparing & serving food, transportation, and more. FCC will be hosting May 21-28. A short training class is available for new volunteers. For more information or to sign up to volunteer, please contact Kathy or Dennis Hayward at haywardkathleen3@gmail.com or call 785-742-2306.

On Memorial Day May 29th, 2017, Family Promise will host a 5K run through beautiful downtown Lawrence. This event benefits both Family Promise of Lawrence and the Lawrence Community Shelter. Race registration is now open at tinyurl.com/KYVPVY2. Race day registration opens at 7:00am in South Park. Race begins at 8:30am. Bring the family and support two wonderful organizations in Lawrence working to end homelessness in our community. The fee is \$25 per person to participate if you sign up before May 1st, then goes up to \$30 in May.



I'd like to tell you about Mohammed, one of our national translators in the Middle East. He's a devoted Christian now, working to bring the Bible to his people in their own heart language. But not long ago he was a terrorist who violently opposed everything the gospel represents. That's an example of the powerful testimony you'll hear at our upcoming Wycliffe Associates banquet. It's happening near you. And I'd like to invite you to be our guest. The banquet is a complimentary event, where you'll hear firsthand stories of lives that have been changed. You'll receive updates on the exciting work of Bible translation around the world—work that is growing rapidly by the day.

*Therefore go and make
disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the
name of the Father and
the Son and the Holy
Spirit, teaching them to
obey everything I have
commanded you. And
remember, I am with you
always, to the end of the
age. Matthew 28:19-20
(NET)*

We say that we're accelerating Bible translation—because new methods are making it possible to translate God's Word faster now than anyone could have imagined. The goal of bringing the gospel to all people is closer than ever! As a supporter of Bible translation, you're an important part of that great calling. At the banquet you'll have the opportunity to support more translation efforts. And you'll have a wonderful evening with other people who share your commitment to God's Word. Will you come? I hope so.

Go to www.wycliffeassociates.org/get-involved/banquets/kansas to find out the details and reserve your seat! You can also make your reservation by calling Noel Davis at 888-599-7551. But please do it today. We look forward to seeing you there!

Until the task is done,

Bruce Smith
President/CEO
Wycliffe Associates

MISSIONARY NEWS



Dear wonderful supporters,

Yes, you have faithfully supported us and prayed for us these last 5 months with very little communication from us. THANK YOU, thank you, thank you...for monthly, quarterly, annual, and special Christmas gifts that have all made it to our bank accounts. Even though you haven't received an official thank you note, you do have our heart-felt gratitude.

Why the silence, you may ask? Well, in short, it had to do with holiday activities followed by Branch Conference, 3 weeks of workshops, and 2 weeks with a TechServe team, followed by catching up on numerous piles of tasks that were largely neglected since October. By early February, Ed and I were both experiencing signs of burnout, fatigue, sickness, forgetfulness, grumpiness, etc. Our silence often means we are too overwhelmed to communicate. Some of you wisely wrote expressing your concern and commitment to pray for us. What a blessing to know people were praying!

In spite of our personal inadequacies, God has been at work in Mexico. You will get a printed newsletter into your mailbox soon explaining more about that. However, the main purpose of this email is to inform you about some urgent needs we have as we prepare for furlough. Our plan is to arrive in Illinois in early July, celebrate Rachel's wedding in August, followed by some much needed R&R time before we return to Mexico in early January.

Furlough Needs:

- A U.S. vehicle: By June, we will have saved about \$5000. If you would like to contribute to the vehicle fund, let us know. We plan to buy an extended cab truck we can afford based on what we have saved by early June.
- Financial support: Our support has dropped a little in recent months. We are now receiving about 92% of our ministry budget. If you are a regular supporter, would you prayerfully consider increasing your giving by at least 8%? Once on furlough, Wycliffe won't let us return to Mexico without a full 100%. If we reach that goal now, we won't have to bring this subject up again.
- Megan's needs: Some of you have also been a part of Megan's support team with ELIC in Asia. If you are helping her, you are also helping us. She has an \$8000 deficit that she needs to raise before the end of July. At that time she will return to the U.S., find a job, buy a car, etc. She plans to move in with us, share our vehicle and adjust to U.S. culture after 2 years of living in Asia.
- Logistics: In the book, *Serving as Senders*, by Neal Pirolo, he encourages the support team back home to value their role as senders. Beyond financial support, there are so many ways you can help us. Things that are hard to deal with upon our return from furlough, besides acquiring a vehicle, include:
 - o Furlough Housing: Praise God, a dear Christian brother has once again offered a farmhouse where we plan to stay through December. However, we will need to find another place to stay during our last month of furlough.
 - o June job, housing & transportation for Ryan: Ryan hopes to be part of the summer crew working with a seed corn company in Illinois. Since the farmhouse is not available until July, he needs help. He will consider another job offer.
 - o Wedding Plans: Praise God again, a dear Christian sister is helping Rachel with her wedding plans. Rachel plans to have the ceremony at our Illinois church with a reception at the farm. However, she could use more help with logistics. If anyone living near Walnut can help, let us know. It's hard to do all the planning long distance, especially on a minimal budget.
- Encouragement, prayer and godly counsel: Above all, we do not discount how VERY important your prayers and words of wisdom will help us as we make furlough plans and recover from burnout. We look forward to rich times together praising God in worship, studying His Word together, sharing about God's work in Mexico, enjoying precious moments with family, and reigniting friendships.

Thank you, again, for standing with us as we persevere to bring God's message to the people of Mexico.

Melissa – for Ed and Ryan

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

1000 Kentucky Street • Lawrence KS 66044

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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Lisa Hoag, Business Administrator	lisa@fcclawrence.org
Main Office	office@fcclawrence.org
Church Elders	elders@fcclawrence.org

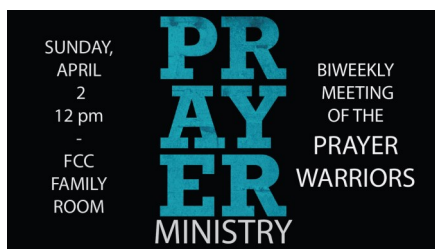
Want to make an announcement? Send an email to social@fcclawrence.org

Office Hours: Monday — Friday, 9am to 3pm (closed 12-1)

785-843-0679

Come to First Christian this week! Traditional Worship 9am • Modern Worship 11am

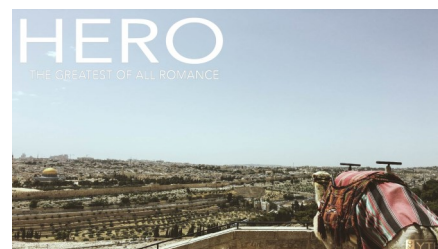
PUT ME ON THE REFRIGERATOR!



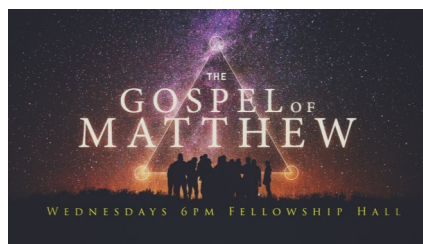
Sunday, April 2nd
Meets at 12pm in the
Family Room.



Serve at L.I.N.K. April 9th at
12:30pm in the basement.
Sign up at the Welcome Desk.



A new series for Youth that
focuses on the ultimate hero.
Starts in April.



Everyone welcome! Come every
Wednesday at 6pm in the Fellowship
Hall. Free childcare.



April 14th from 6am-6pm. Sign
up in Fellowship Hall.



A solemn celebration on the
sacrifice of Jesus. April 14th at
6pm.



A morning of events in celebration
of the resurrection.



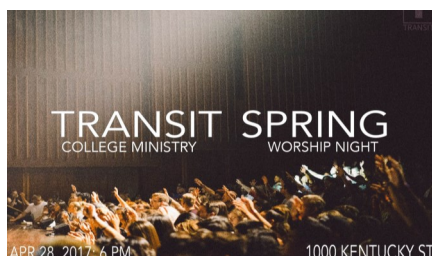
April 16th at 6am at Clinton Lake.
Celebration with song, reading
and fellowship.



Time of fellowship around
breakfast in the Fellowship Hall.
April 16th at 10am.



Learn more about FCC.
First Sunday of every month at
10:15am in the Fellowship Hall.



College Ministry Worship Night
April 28th, at 6pm.



DGroups. Have you joined one yet?
It's never too late. See a list of
groups in the Fellowship Hall.



JOY (Just Older Youth)
2nd Thursday of each month
11am at Perkins Restaurant.



Pick up free Thank You cards at
the Welcome Desk. Let people
know how grateful you are.

CHRISTIAN
WOMEN'S
FELLOWSHIP



RUTH: First Wednesday of each month,
9am in the Fellowship Hall.
LYDIA LADIES: First Tuesday of each
month, 7pm, Wyndham Place Senior
Residence.



Super Bowl Chili Cook-Off



FCC Kids Fishing Game



Elders Pray for Pastor David



Staff Meeting



Valentine's Dinner



Celebrating Pastor David's First Anniversary