

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH



Hey Church Family,

As many of you know, a precious family at FCC suffered a terrible tragedy recently when their young son died suddenly. They need our constant prayers and support.

We know that Jesus loved children. One time, parents were bringing their children to Jesus so that Jesus might lay His hands on them and pray for them. Jesus's disciples fussed at those parents. Children shouldn't have such access to a respected Jewish teacher. In a society where children held no authority whatsoever (in fact considered just above slaves), Jesus used children as a great example of how His disciples should be. "But Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me and do not try to stop them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such

as these.'" (Matt. 19:14 NET) That is, it's not that proper faith in Jesus is *childish*, but "like a child" – i.e., it approaches Jesus with no entitlement, no claim to social status, or "chip on your shoulder." Instead, you just trust. You come with open hands.

This is still true. Millions and millions of children are alive and well with our Lord, Jesus, right now. Children of all races. Children of all backgrounds. And *they're completely welcome to play and grow in the presence of Jesus*. The "kingdom of Heaven" is *made* for such people.

But what about us who are left behind? We grieve. Grief is the necessary response to such terrible loss. And in our grief, we do "not grieve like the rest who have no hope." (1 Thess. 4:13 NET) We have a genuine hope, based on Jesus's teaching and death and resurrection, that all of our loved ones—children and Christians alike—are alive and well, experiencing a joy, peace, and "eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison" (2 Cor. 4:17 NET). We will meet them again.

Our Pastor to Children, Elaine Pendergrass, has a wonderful resource for parents who wish to raise their children as Christians (www.elainependergrass.com). I've asked her if I could include a recent composition she posted and she agreed. I think you'll find it insightful.



For the Kingdom,,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David".

David W. Pendergrass, Ph.D. Senior Pastor

Children's Ministry



Children Grieve Too: A Resource for Parents
By Elaine W. Pendergrass

Just over a week ago, the First Christian Church family lost one of its youngest: sweet baby Courage Stude (son of Crystal and Beau, brother of Faith and Hope) is now in the arms of Jesus. What a difficult situation, which causes unbelievable grief.

Since many knew and loved this sweet four-month-old, and so many who knew him were part of our FCC Kids ministry, I'd like to offer some tips about how to help our children (and their grown-ups) understand the tragedy of death and its implications.

There's a book I've recommended to parents entitled [Helping Children Grieve: When Someone They Love Dies \(Revised Edition\)](#) by Theresa M. Huntley. It explores how children typically understand death, based on their age, descriptions of the grieving process, and more. It's important to understand that children grieve unlike adults. That is normal and okay. Children grieve in stages-as adults do-and everyone grieves at a different pace. Here are some things I suggest:

1. Phrases to Avoid:

- a. **"He/she was sick":** Be aware that children pick up on what we say. If we say that someone was sick and then that person dies, they may become fearful of death when they get a cold or the flu. It's important to emphasize that people only die when the sickness is very bad and when their bodies are too weak to work anymore.
- b. **"He/she went to sleep":** If we describe death as *going to sleep*, children may become fearful of going to sleep.
- c. **"He/she is an angel":** Although movies depict this, there is no evidence that people become angels when they die. Christianity does not teach that people become angels when they die.

2. **Words to Use:** It is okay and important to use the words *die* and *death* when someone dies. Many times people are hesitant to use these words and instead use phrases like "passed away." This can be confusing for children. Children understand in concrete terms first, then in abstract terms.

3. **Life After Death:** Each person is made of two parts, a soul and a body. Death is when a soul leaves its body. Death can happen to both young and old people. There is no promise that everyone will live a long life. The soul, the part that thinks and feels, continues to live. Because of Jesus's death, ministry on earth, and resurrection, we can be sure that each disciple's soul will be with Jesus forever when his/her body dies. Although our bodies die (as Jesus's did), we will one day get a brand new body, which has no need for food, won't get sick, and will never die.

4. **Breaking the News:** To tell a child that someone died, it is best to be straightforward. Here's an example of what to say: "The baby has died. We won't be able to see him on earth anymore, and this is so sad. We're really going to miss him. When our bodies die, our soul (the part us that thinks and feels) goes to Heaven to be with Jesus. One day, probably a long time from now, we'll be with Jesus too, and we'll get to see the baby again because the baby is alive and well with Jesus."

5. **Is this Normal?:** After learning of a death, children may cry, or say they are sad. They may have questions, or not talk about what has been learned. They may continue to play as if nothing has changed. Children may not *seem* sad or affected by a death for some time. This is very normal. Everyone copes with death differently, yet it is common for children to carry on with normalcy. Schedules, play, and routines bring comfort to children, both in times of crisis and in everyday life. Resist the urge to expect your child to grieve as you do or attempt to evoke feelings of sadness in your child. Let your child's feeling be as they are.

Children Ministry

6. **Guided Grief:** After breaking the news, ask if your child has any thoughts, feelings, or questions about what death. Feelings may not surface right away, so periodically ask questions. Children may need help finding the words they need, and you may have the words to help them grieve well.

7. **Fears of Kids:** When someone dies, children may fear that they or others they love will die. It's important to assure children not worry about that because God loves us, is in control, and wants the best for our lives. In addition, assure children that they will be well cared for no matter what.

8. **What's the Answer?:** If your child asks a question, and you don't know the answer, that's okay. Just say, "I'm not sure, but I'll do my best to find out." Then do some research, or ask a professional, to help you find the answer.

9. **In Memory:** It may be helpful to do something in memory of the person who died. There are many things that children can do: e.g., place a photo of the person in a prominent place, do an activity that reminds you of the person who died (plant flowers, go to a baseball game, etc.), or give a gift to a school or church in memory of the person who died. For other ideas, click

<https://sesamestreetincommunities.org/topics/grief/ere>

10. **Next Steps:** Grief is a process. It does not stay for a week and then leave forever. Stay close to your child in this process, ask questions, allow your child to process, and assure him/her that for those who are disciples, death is not the end.

Elaine W. Pendergrass (Pastor to Children)

elaine@fcclawrence.org



FCCLawrenceKids

THE GIVING TREE PRESCHOOL



The July heat wave did not prevent the Giving Tree preschoolers from enjoying a great week of summer camp. Our theme, Summer Superheroes, included both inside and outdoor activities. We created a superhero headquarters in the dramatic play area and the children enjoyed dressing up as heroes! Throughout the week we learned about the best superhero of all...Jesus.

Both of our summer camps provided a great opportunity to say goodbye to those friends moving onto kindergarten as well as welcoming new friends to the Giving Tree. We are blessed to have such wonderful families attend our school. Thank you to Ms. Donna, Ms. Mikayla and Ms. DeAnna for helping to make our camps a great success.

With August upon us, the start of a new school year is just around the corner. We are looking forward to serving families of FCC as well as families in our community. Our parent meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 6th. School begins throughout the week of August 13th.

We have a few openings still available for the 2018-2019 school year. If you have friends or family with preschool age children, please tell them about the Giving Tree. Brochures are available in the Fellowship Hall with our contact information. We provide a faith-based environment to grow, explore, **discover and promotes school readiness using fun and innovative teaching techniques.** Come check us out!

Julie Hafenstine (The Giving Tree Preschool Director)

www.lawrencepreschool.com



TheGivingTreePreschool



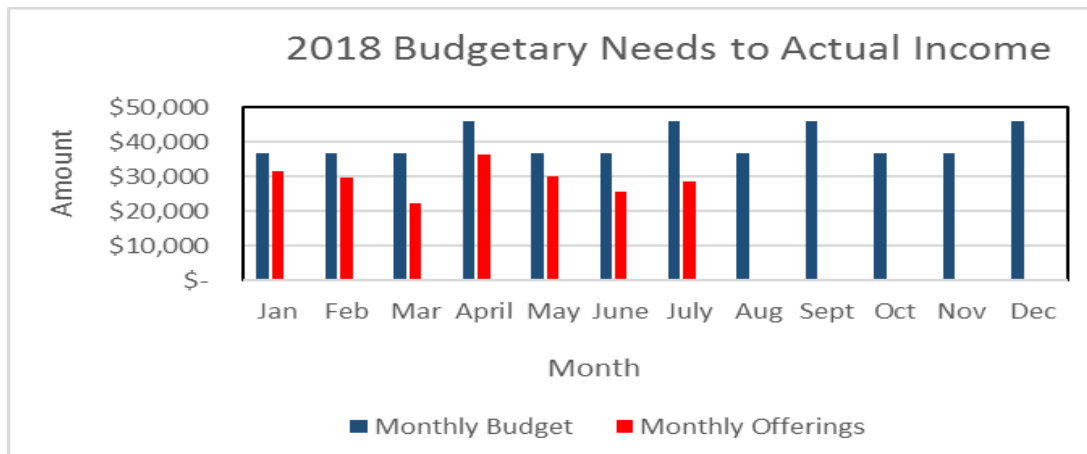
STEWARDSHIP

Because you give, FCC is able to provide a place for people to come who are hurting and lost, a place to learn more about God and his incredible love for us, a place where God can use people to change lives! With your gifts and time we are able to provide food through LINK and household items through the Helping Hands closet. Because you give, we can maintain a wonderful facility for children to attend preschool, for those new Christians to be baptized, for bible studies, for recovery groups to meet, for couples to get married, for families to dedicate new babies and for families to say goodbye to their loved ones who have been called home. We are so thankful, because of so many, we can continue to minister and to be a place and a people that God can use to change lives!

The Trustees continue to watch the finances of the church. Because we are not seeing the needed increase in giving, we find it necessary to make adjustments to our current budget. Beginning August 1st, both the Pastor to Children and the Pastor to Youth and College positions are going to half time. It is our hope, that our finances will improve and we will be able to move back to full time positions. Moving forward, we will continue to monitor the finances and make recommendations as necessary.

Please note the following:

- On average we need \$9,204 per Sunday to cover our budgetary needs.
- Some months have 5 Sundays, the graph will indicate those months with an increase in the budget number.
- Larger one-time gifts or early annual payments of pledges will be spread over the remaining months.
- These numbers represent what is given to the Unified Budget for our operating, missions and outreach budget. It does not include gifts for the building, capital improvements or other designated gifts.
- The July numbers are preliminary, any change should be minimal. The Trustees will meet later this month to approve the July statements.



June Budget (4)	\$ 36,817
June Actual	\$ 25,712
June Deficit	\$ 11,105
July Budget (5)	\$ 46,022
July Actual	\$ 28,685
July Deficit	\$ 17,337

We were about 30% behind where we needed to be for June and 38% behind for July. At this rate, on average, we will be behind roughly \$124,400 at year end. If you haven't pledged, please consider doing so. If you could consider an additional gift for 2018, it would be very much appreciated. The Trustees are keeping a close eye on the finances and will keep you further updated through the newsletter and bulletins. If you have questions, please contact the Trustees via e-mail, trustees@fcclawrence.org.

Monthly giving will fluctuate from month to month, some of the fluctuation is related to the timing of gifts. If someone is on vacation or misses a Sunday, their gift may fall into the next month. To avoid this, might we suggest setting up recurring payments through our online giving option. Just go to our website and click the "Give" button. We recommend the ACH option as the fees are much less, than using a credit card. If you have questions or need help, please contact Marita in the Finance Office.

Ways to Give

Online - fcclawrence.org - Click the "Give" Button **Phone** - Text [fcclawrence to 77977](tel:77977)

Offering Plate – Each Sunday **Mail** – First Christian Church, 1000 Kentucky Street, Lawrence, Ks 66044

YOUTH MINISTRY



Oh wow! The summer has gone by so fast! As summer break is approaching an end and the next school year is about to begin, I am very excited to see what the Lord has in store for FCC YTH and its students! FCC YTH is excited to implement the strategy of Gather, Grow, Go within its ministry. FCC YTH gathers on Wednesday nights, Sunday mornings, and other various occasions. We desire to pour into the students, so that they grow to become more like Jesus. We work to accomplish this part of the strategy through biblical education, prayer, and discipleship with students; both individually and collectively. As students mature in Christ, FCC YTH desires to go out into the world to serve practical needs and spiritual needs of others primarily by sharing ourselves and the gospel of Jesus Christ.

During the first few weeks of August, on Wednesday nights, FCC YTH will be going through and finishing a series called: "The Christian Gauntlet." We will be using the Scripture of 2 Peter 1:5-8 as our framework to discuss the concept of "adding to our faith." God has challenged me to add on to my faith, and I want to give our students the same challenge. On Sunday mornings, FCC YTH will continue the RightNow Media series called "Doctrine." The Sunday morning study for the summer will focus upon basic essentials of the Christian faith led by Francis Chan, who led the previous Sunday morning series.

FCC YTH will still have normal gatherings on Wednesday nights. Doors open at 5:00 PM and gathering activities last from 6:00-7:30 PM.

Upcoming Dates:

Friday, August 24 – FCC YTH will have a Late Night or Lock-In. More details to come.

Transit College Ministry is the University/College Ministry of FCC Lawrence. The University of Kansas will start the 2018 Fall Semester on August 20. Students should be returning back to campus starting August 16. We care and have been praying for our college students all summer. We are excited to welcome back our KU college students! Please contact our Pastor to Youth and College, Paul Porter, for more info: paul@fcclawrence.org.

Paul Porter (Pastor to Youth and College)
paul@fcclawrence.org



@fcc_yth



[fbl.me/fccyth](https://www.facebook.com/fbl.me/fccyth)

COLLEGE MINISTRY

Transit College Ministry is the University/College Ministry of FCC Lawrence. We congratulate our college students who have finally survived finals and are now enjoying the summer. We do not have an organized gathering during the summer, but if you are a college student or a college-aged student who is still here in Lawrence, I would love to meet you and treat you to meal to get to know you better! Please contact our Pastor to Youth and College, Paul Porter, for more information: paul@fcclawrence.org.

Paul Porter (Pastor to Youth and College)

WORSHIP MINISTRY



We're excited for the month of August, as we will be starting traditional service at 8:45am! With this, we as a congregation will have more time between services to grow through DGroups. With our 3 pronged mission to Gather, Grow, Go in mind, each leg of the "chair" that is your spiritual life deserves equal attention. The parable of the sower in Matthew 13 perfectly demonstrates this concept. If a farmer requires "water, soil, and sunlight" to grow, how can we as disciples of Christ thrive when we only one or two of these spiritual needs? Take this opportunity to find the balance between gathering, growing, and going. As the elders mentioned when they introduced this 8:45am start time, your feedback has been essential in order to make a decision. Growth through DGroups is one of our strongest tools to become more like Jesus. Don't rely on worship, fellowship, or teaching through sermon to do all the spiritual heavy lifting in your life. Grow in your discipleship through joining a DGroup.

Greg Boyle (Traditional Worship Director)
greg@fcclawrence.org

COMMUNITY AT FCC



PUT ME ON YOUR REFRIGERATOR



New Schedule
Traditional Service
8:45am

Icons: A person with a cross, a plant growing from a seed, and a play button.

Sermon series in August

THE BIBLE DOESN'T SAY THAT

common *mis*-placed beliefs

Loss is difficult. Grieving is tough.
You're not alone. There is hope.

GRIEF SHARE
GRIEF RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUPS

Find out more Aug. 26 at 3pm.

See Fellowship Hall or contact Brock Caffee, LCMFT at brockdcaffee@gmail.com

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT FCC?

COFFEE & QUESTIONS
1ST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH
9:45 AM
FELLOWSHIP HALL

In the United States today, one child out of six lives in poverty. Families with children make up 35% of the people in this country who experience homelessness. **Family Promise** is doing something about it.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!
FCC hosts families **September 2-9**.
Sign up in Fellowship Hall or online.

Family Promise
Building communities, strengthening lives.

LAWRENCE INTERDENOMINATIONAL NUTRITION KITCHEN
Serving free, hot, home-cooked meals since 1985

Sign up to serve **online or in Fellowship Hall!**
FCC serves lunch the 2nd Sunday of each month

You're Invited!

J.O.Y. - Just Older Youth
2nd Thursday of each month | 11am | Perkins

FCC KIDS **Back-to-School Splash**
August 12, 2-4pm

FREE fun for the whole family!
Who will you bring **with you?**

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

1000 Kentucky Street • Lawrence KS 66044

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Download the App
"First Christian
Lawrence"



www.fcclawrence.org



[/firstchristianlawrence](https://www.facebook.com/firstchristianlawrence)



[@fcclawrenceks](https://www.instagram.com/fcclawrenceks)



[@fcclawrenceks](https://twitter.com/fcclawrenceks)



[/fcclawrence](https://vimeo.com/fcclawrence)



Get encouraging texts. Send **first christian** to **69922**

Donate via text. Send **fcclawrence** to **77977**

David Pendergrass, Ph.D., Senior Pastor	david@fcclawrence.org
Elaine Pendergrass, Pastor to Children	elaine@fcclawrence.org
Greg Boyle, Traditional Worship	greg@fcclawrence.org
Julie Hafenstine, Director of Giving Tree	julie@fcclawrence.org
Marita Elliott, Business Administrator-PT	marita@fcclawrence.org
Rhonda Crump, Office Coordinator	office@fcclawrence.org
Matthew Mulnix, Modern Worship	matthew@fcclawrence.org
Paul Porter, Pastor to Youth and College	paul@fcclawrence.org
Elder Board	elders@fcclawrence.org
Trustee Board	trustees@fcclawrence.org

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

Office Hours: Monday — Friday, 9am to 4pm (closed 12-1pm) 785-843-0679

Come to First Christian this week! Traditional Worship 8:45am • Modern Worship 11am