

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

FAMILY NEWS

Hello Church Family!



As we enter this month, I'd like to celebrate with you. Of course, we will celebrate our political freedom as we observe Independence Day; but, I'd like to celebrate a great event that occurred on the First Christian Church campus last month. In June, FCC Kids (the children's ministry at FCC) hosted VBS (Vacation Bible School).

During the week, we had nearly 50 children on our campus! While numbers are not the only indication of success, they do tell us something. Nearly 50 children **learned Bible stories** throughout the week. Nearly 50 children **memorized Bible verses and songs about Jesus**. Nearly 50 children explored ways to **put their faith into action** at school and at home.



Just over 40 volunteers participated in VBS. The Body of Christ (see 1 Corinthians 12) was visibly at work. Volunteers worked behind-the-scenes to prepare VBS crafts and to decorate the building to create an underwater wonderland. Other volunteers prepared underwater-themed meals, including this favorite dessert: a cup of blue gelatin with a gummy shark inside and a teddy bear in a life preserver ring on top! Volunteers taught Bible stories in fun, hands-on ways, to make the Bible stories come alive. Other volunteers reiterated those stories through Crafts, Science, Games, and Missions.



It was a joy to watch volunteers bond as they taught about Noah, Jonah, Peter, Paul, and Jesus. I observed those who did not even know each other's names begin to finish each other's sentences and become a volunteer team. I observed volunteers get to know unchurched families, holding their babies and telling about their children's VBS fun. We even had volunteers, who once attended VBS at FCC as children, serve in leadership roles.

The VBS theme was *Deep Sea Discover: God is With Me Wherever I Go* and had a corresponding Bible verse: *God is with, and will watch over, me wherever I go* (Genesis 28:15). Throughout the week, the children were given the opportunity to memorize the Bible verse and recite it. Once it was recited, the children could earn a prize. Many children recited Bible verses by memory, including a four-year-old!



Parents reported that their children wanted to come back each night, and that they wanted VBS to continue throughout the summer. One of our youngest VBS children (age 3) sang the VBS songs, including the corresponding hand motions, as he was tucked into bed at night. An even younger child (the younger sister of a child who attended VBS) requested the VBS songs at home and sang along, following her brother's lead.



One of the best things about VBS is the relationships that are built. As a result, families have visited church on Sundays, hugs have been received from children who attended VBS, and communication has continued between VBS families and FCC Kids. We will continue to follow up with families and to share the love of Jesus with them throughout the summer and beyond.

As its name indicates, Vacation Bible School is during children's summer vacation from school. The *lazy days of summer* are upon us. Summer affords us the chance to slow down, relax, and maybe even take a vacation. However, not many of us can afford to take a vacation from work for ten weeks. In the same way, we can't *afford* to take ten weeks off from church during summer vacation. So, join us this month as we enjoy the summer together, right here at First Christian Church.

For God's Children,
Elaine Pendergrass
Pastor to Children

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS



I hope you were able to hear the VBS children sing on the Sunday after VBS! What a treat to hear little ones (and adults alike) sing praises to God. My favorite part of that worship segment was hearing the adults join the children as they sang *Jesus Loves Me*. This song has a soothing melody and powerful words, yet you don't often hear it sung by adults. I have observed how this song soothes crying babies and calms anxious adults.

The name of Jesus is a powerful one, and we do our best, in FCC Kids, to tell children and families about what Jesus said and did. Stop by one Sunday to see this in action. You can even join us as our Preschool children hold small hearts and sing *Jesus Loves Me*.

We have several upcoming summer events planned for FCC Kids. To RSVP for these events, simply email Elaine (elaine@fcclawrence.org).

- **Pick-A-Flick: Sunday, July 23**, from Noon – 2:30pm. FCC Kids will choose which movie to enjoy.
- **Back to School Splash: Sunday, August 13**, from 2 pm – 4 pm. All Elementary children will play water games.

Elaine W. Pendergrass (Pastor to Children)



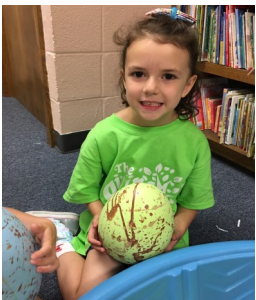
THE GIVING TREE PRESCHOOL NEWS



With summer upon us, it is time for The Giving Tree summer camp. Our June camp was dynamic just like the theme...Dynamic Dinosaurs! The week was full of many activities including a dinosaur egg excavation, dino slime, dinosaur skeletons, fossil dough and we even created a dinosaur nest. The week ended with making a volcano and a science experiment that resulted in a successful eruption of "hot lava".



The warm July weather will be a perfect time for our next camp, The Great Outdoors. We will explore bugs, butterflies and the many adventures of being outside while enjoying all that God created. The Fellowship Hall will become a campsite with tents and our pretend campfire. We plan to have a fun-filled week and look forward to sharing how God loves us all so much!



Our camps consist of children from our most recent school year as well as many new friends who have recently enrolled for the upcoming school year. If you have friends or family with children ages 3-kindergarten, please encourage them to check out The Giving Tree Preschool. We have a few openings available for the 2017-2018 school year. Please contact me for more information or to schedule a tour.

Julie Hafenstine (The Giving Tree Preschool Director)
www.lawrencepreschool.com



WORSHIP MINISTRY NEWS



June has been a spirit filled month in the Worship Ministry at FCC! We have seen joyous celebration of the hope we find in Jesus through songs, prayers, and special elements in both the Traditional and Modern services.

VBS Sunday

I want to thank Tandy Reussner for leading our VBS Sunday music with a true servant's heart! FCC was blessed to experience the lessons learned throughout the VBS week through the songs the kids presented. I personally felt the joy found in the one true God as the kids sang the words "we come alive in the river" with me during the modern service.

Sunday Volunteer Orientation - Wednesday, July 12th at 6pm

For those involved in Sunday morning volunteering, this meeting is for you! Do you currently or would you like to greet, serve communion, take offering, read scripture, or volunteer in any way, but are having difficulties utilizing our new scheduling system? We'll walk you through the Sunday volunteer positions and how to get scheduled for them, whether that be digitally or not. Myself and Ministry Chair Linda Shirk will give a short presentation on the different Sunday morning volunteer positions, and answer any questions you may have. We'll also have resources ready to get you scheduled and set up to utilize Planning Center, our online scheduling program. If this meeting will benefit you in the volunteering process at FCC, I hope you'll join us!

Matthew Mulnix (Modern Worship Leader) matthew@fccclawrence.org

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

The momentum that began this past spring semester has been gathering speed in our summer YTH Nights. In the month of June, our students learned, prayed, and worshipped together as we studied how we might become a stronger community under the name of Jesus. As Paul tells his friends in Ephesus, "We stand together in our conduct that is worthy of our citizenship that belongs to Heaven." (see Ephesians 4) Our youth community is continually growing and seeking God to move among us. It will be exciting to see what the rest of the summer will do for our community!



@fcc_yth



fbl.me/fccyth

Staff Transitions

It is with heavy hearts that the Elders announce that Kiyun Lee has been dismissed as our Pastor to Youth and College, effective June, 26th. Unfortunately, Kiyun's strengths aren't exactly what First Christian needs. We appreciate all he has done, and the love he has shown our youth. We pray God's hand would be with Kiyun as he searches for his next position.

A search committee has been formed and we have begun the process to find a new Pastor to Youth and College. Members of the search committee are Pastor David, Lauren Mendoza, and Hyacinth Self. The Elders are praying for the future of First Christian Church and its students.

In His Name,
Sheri Penny
Chair of the Elder Board

MISSIONARY NEWS

We are all beginning to do lots of traveling. We will not have any U.S. phone numbers until after we get settled, so the best way to communicate with us is via email or Messenger. Your prayers are appreciated.

Our Summer Schedule:

July 2-4: Paul, Ryan and Megan drive to Kansas to visit their Penny relatives.

July 5: Melissa, Megan and Ryan travel to Illinois.

July 7: Melissa and Ryan move into our missionary furlough farmhouse.

July 8: Megan participates in her friend's wedding near Springfield, while Ryan begins working in the corn fields right away.

July 9: Melissa drives to Springfield to pick up Megan.

July 18: Ed flies to Illinois. Megan flies to Colorado to attend a re-entry retreat for missionary women.

July 22: Rachel and Andrew drive to Illinois and Wisconsin to be with family and prepare for their wedding.

August 5: Rachel weds Andrew Jensen in Illinois. Honeymoon in Arizona. They both return to Virginia for one final year at Liberty.

August: Ryan travels to Liberty University to begin his education. Ed and Melissa (tentatively) attend a Wycliffe re-entry event in Orlando. Megan goes to Arkansas for a debrief/counseling session. September: Megan searches for a permanent job, new home and a car. Ed and Melissa begin partnership development activities and hope from some much needed REST!!!



Furlough. A leave of absence from duty. (*Webster's*)

Furlough. A busy time of travel visiting family, friends and supporters. A time for the Ed Swanson family to be together (briefly) for the first time in two years. A time to get away from missionary life and try to remember how to be Americans again. A time to rest, heal from burn-out, reflect, draw near to the Lord and seek the His guidance for our future. (*Swanson's*)

Thank you for your prayers. We look forward to seeing many of you soon!

Melissa, for Ed and family

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



The FCC Garage Sale will be held Saturday, August 5th. Proceeds will go toward repainting rooms used for DGroups. Anything remaining will go into the Pastor's Benevolence fund. For more information, or to donate items, contact Kathy Hayward by phone, at 785-824-2306 or by email, at haywardkathleen3@gmail.com.

Mark your calendars for the 2017 Kansas Disciples Women's Retreat, which will be held **October 6th—8th**. CWF will be travelling to Augusta, KS to hear from Keynote Speaker, Rev. Dr. Christal L. Williams, among others, at the Disciples Center at Tawakoni. Registrations are due September 8, 2017. For more info, contact Jean Bonner.

Email: jbonner@sunflower.com Phone: 785-843-4854



STEWARDSHIP

Below are the YTD totals for the Unified Budget at the end of May 2017. We are showing net income \$2,351. At the end of May we should be at 41.67% of the budget,. Our income is at 40.63% and expenses at 40.43%.

Unified Budget Through May, 2017

YTD Income	\$ 198,658.00
YTD Expenses	\$ 196,307.00
YTD Net Income/(Loss)	\$ 2,351.00

As you can see from the rest of the newsletter, FCC has been a busy place these last two months, especially for the children. The Giving Tree held its' final days of classes and then the children showcased some of what they learned this year at their Moving-Up programs. In June, the Giving Tree hosted a week long camp for the preschoolers with another camp scheduled for July. Also in June, FCC hosted a wonderful week of Vacation Bible School. More "summer fun" events are scheduled for July and August.

Without the generous gifts that are given each week, these events would not be possible. Events where both children and adults come together to learn about Jesus, to make new friends, to serve and to live out what it means to be a Disciple of Jesus! We thank all who support the ministries of First Christian with your time, talent and resources.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH LEGACY ENDOWMENT FUND

First Christian Church is proud to announce and provide this opportunity to leave your legacy to FCC through a planned gift. For those of us who truly love and appreciate what our church means in our lives, we now have a Legacy Endowment Fund that enables us to have a lasting and permanent impact to future generations at First Christian Church.

The purpose of our Legacy Endowment Fund is to retain your gifts to the church in a Fund that will then provide earnings (interest on your gifts) to fund the missions and ministries that we provide today, and now into perpetuity.

You should have received a brochure explaining the full Legacy Endowment Fund for FCC. We invite you to examine the brochure and then consider your planning for the benefit of First Christian Church in your will/trust. Brochures are located in the pews, so if you haven't received one already, feel free to take one home this week.

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

SERVING IN THE MILITARY

There are several people in our congregation who have one or more family members serving in the Military. These men and women are listed in our weekly bulletin (on the prayer sheet), so we thought you might like to know more about them.

Russell Brandt is Tandy Reussner's nephew-in-law.

Nathan Burnett Bevis is the grandson of Peggy Burnett, the son of her daughter, Patty and Greg Bevis. He is in the Air Force and pilots an A-10 plane. Nathan wanted to fly from the time he was little, and he now has a degree in aviation. He served in Afghanistan for several months and is now stationed at Whiteman Air Force Base where he loves his work.

Tim Brundage, son of Linda Shirk, is a Warrant Officer 4th Class with the Army National Guard.



He is currently at Ft. Hood, Texas, on his way to Kuwait where he will be serving with the 35th Infantry Division until next April. This will be Tim's third year-long tour of duty. He flew Blackhawk helicopters during his two previous tours of duty in Iraq, one tour of which he was flying medivac missions. Tim joined the Reserves during his senior year in high school and then joined the Army National Guard full-time about 14 years ago. His regular duty station is Forbes Air Base in Topeka. Tim and his wife Amy have two children, Sarah (15) and Nate (13), who attend Veritas Christian School here in Lawrence.

Andy Freeman (son of Rich Freeman) is a Lance Corporal with the Marine Corps. Andy took his basic training in San Diego and later went to Ft. Sill, Oklahoma, for advanced training. He is currently stationed on Oahu, Hawaii, where he is making new friends and isn't quite as homesick as at first. He will soon be heading to Okinawa, Japan. Andy says "hi" to his FCC family and misses Sundays at our church.

Aaron Goodrich is a friend of Zach & Susan Thomas.

Thomas Hofstetter and Andrew Denny are Paul Studebaker's sister's grandsons. Thomas is in the US Navy and serving aboard the USS Carl Vinson in Korean waters, while Andrew is in the US Marine Corp in San Diego, CA.

James Hogan is Marjorie Walton's grandson.

Dalton Morgan is Peggy Burnett's great-grandson, the grandson of Peggy's late daughter, Nancy and Don Morgan. After finishing high school, Dalton enlisted in the Marines. He went through basic training in California and was then sent to Japan where he has spent nearly two years. Dalton will be coming back to the States this month.

Samuel J. Smith is Nancy Smith's nephew. He has been serving the past five years in the Air Force. Currently in Texas, he will finish his military commitment this summer and return home.

SERVING IN THE MILITARY

Davis McElwain, son of Larry McElwain, is a Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army, and is the Battalion Commander for the 41st Signal Battalion in Seoul, S. Korea. In this position, he is in charge of all modes of communication on the Korean Peninsula for the Army, Navy, and Marines and is responsible for U.S. soldiers, Korean soldiers, and civilians. In his 19 years in the Army, he has served one combat tour in Iraq and two combat tours in Afghanistan and has earned two bronze stars plus other citations. Davis and his wife Kimberly live at Yongsan Army Garrison with their two sons, Evan (9) and Caleb (7), along with about 21,000 other military and civilian citizens. This installation is about 30 miles south of the DMZ between South and North Korea. The family will be in South Korea for another year, although the entire installation at Yongsan is being moved about 75 miles south to Camp Humphreys, which will be the new home of the 41st Signal Battalion.



Andrew Denny is Paul Studebaker's great nephew.

Zach Henderson, son of Shawn and Suzanne Henderson, is a First Lieutenant in the Air Force where he is a Weather Officer starting his third year of a four-year term stationed at Pearl Harbor. He is currently Flight Commander supervising 20 individuals who are responsible for weather communications with pilots in Japan, Indonesia, Philippines, China, South Korea and Alaska. He is getting his master's degree in strategic defense and plans to pursue a career in the Air Force. Zach is single and has a younger sister, Tori.

Rachel Braga is Tandy Reussner's sister.

Megan Braga is Tandy Reussner's niece.

Tiarra Braga is Tandy Reussner's niece.

Travis Clark is Jim and Hyacinth Self's adopted grandson.

Please continue to keep these men and women and their families in your prayers as they serve our Country and work to keep America safe!

Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.
(Ephesians 6:11, NIV)

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. (Deuteronomy 31:6, NIV)

When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise in God I trust and am not afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?
(Psalm 56:3-4, NIV)

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

1000 Kentucky Street • Lawrence KS 66044

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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 12-1pm)

785-843-0679

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

PUT ME ON THE REFRIGERATOR!



Sunday | July 2nd | 12pm.
Sunday | July 16th | Traditional
11:15am. Modern 12:15pm.



Sunday | July 2nd | 9 and 11am
Military families recognized in
both services.



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



Sunday, July 23rd. For kids who
completed kindergarten to 5th
grade. Costs \$5 to cover lunch.



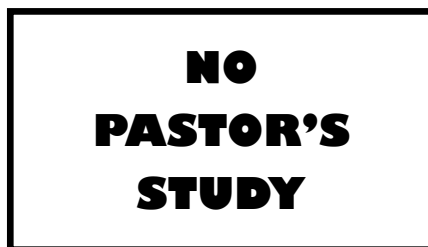
Sunday | July 30th | 12pm.
Join us in Fellowship Hall. No signup
required. Please bring 1 dish to share.



Wednesdays | 6pm | The Pit
Unity Among Opposition
Summer Youth Series.



Saturday | August 5th | 8am
For more information and to
donate, contact Kathy Hayward.
haywardkathleen3@gmail.com



Wednesday | July 5th and 12th
No Pastor's Study DGroup.
Classes will resume July 19th.



We are enrolling for the 2017-2018
school year. Please contact Julie for
more info. julie@fcclawrence.org



1st Sunday | Every Month
10:15am | Fellowship Hall.
Come to learn more about FCC.



Sunday | August 13th | 2 - 4pm
Back to School Splash
Contact Elaine Pendergrass.
elaine@fcclawrence.org



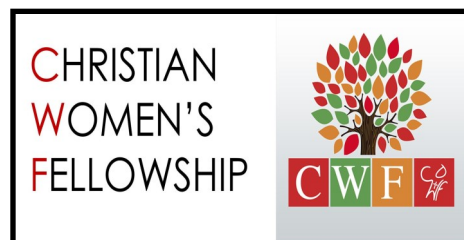
Have you joined a DGroup? It's
never too late. See a list of groups
in the Fellowship Hall.



2nd Thursday | Each Month
11am | Perkins Restaurant
JOY (Just Older Youth)



Wednesday | July 12th | 6pm
For more information, contact
Matthew Mulnix at
matthew@fcclawrence.org.



CWF: Off for the Summer.
Meetings will resume in
September.

DEEP SEA DISCOVERY VBS 2017



Bible Story



Games Team



Food Preparation



Praise and Worship



Preschool Dress-Up



Preschool Bible



Crafts Team



Registration Team



Time for T-Shirts

