

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH



New starts can be very powerful. There's something about starting a new year: it's motivating, inspiring, and easier to commit to needed changes. In Leviticus 25 we learn how the ancient Israelites experienced a brand new start every fifty years, when debts were forgiven and land was regained. They sounded this radical new start with the loud burst of the ram's horn, hence the name given to this merciful event: the Year of the Ram (or Ram's Horn = שְׁנַת יְרוּשָׁלַיִם *yovel*). Most translations give it the euphemistic name, "The Year of Jubilee", probably since that's what the sound of the ram's horn likely invoked in the people. Do you need a new start in 2018?

I've been praying and reflecting much lately on a very difficult topic: *surrender*. One dictionary says that surrender means "to cease resistance to an enemy or opponent and submit to their authority." Of one thing we can be certain: *Jesus demanded and expected utter surrender*. For example, he told the crowds: "If anyone wants to become my follower, *he must deny himself*, take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever *loses his life for my sake* will save it. For what does it benefit a person if he gains the whole world but loses or forfeits himself?" (Lk. 9:23-25 NET) There it is, front and center and clear. There is no middle ground. Jesus never intended His message to be *suggestive*, as if He were giving some grandfatherly advice. He spoke as if He's the Commanding Officer and everyone else in the world is either a good or bad soldier; either loyal to the cause or a rebel. You either "take up His yoke" or you don't (Matt. 11:28).

Once, Jesus was speaking of how difficult it is for rich people to be His disciples. I appreciate Peter's response: "Look, we have left everything we own to follow you!" (Lk. 18:28 NET) And they had. Everything. I can see the disciples singing the song, "I Surrender All" as they walked down the road: "All to Jesus I surrender/All to Him I freely give/I will ever love and trust Him/In His presence daily live; All to Jesus I surrender/Humbly at His feet I bow/Worldly pleasures all forsaken/Take me Jesus take me now..." They *surrendered* everything to the ministry. They did not sell all their possessions and cut off relationships. Instead, *everything* they had and every *relationship* they had been subsumed into the cause of Jesus. Everything and everyone was at Jesus's disposal. They rightfully acted as if Jesus had "eminent domain."

But, why can surrendering everything to Jesus be so difficult? We surrender in other circumstances all the time. I appreciate how Billy Graham says it: "You're surrendering all the time. When I fly in an airplane and I sit down in the seat, I'm surrendering to that plane. Nothing I can do about it. I've been operated on several times, and I didn't negotiate with the doctors. As they took the knives out and put the anesthetic in, I put my full trust in those doctors that they were going to do the right thing." ("Total Surrender")

In my good moments, I want to surrender all my struggles, all my sins, all my stress, all my worries, all my relationships, all my goals, all my hopes...everything. I just wish I had those good moments all the time. I don't. Not only am I haunted by this idea in my own discipleship journey, throughout my ministry I've noticed others struggling with the implementation of surrender.

I've known so many men, in particular, who have not surrendered everything to Jesus. They confess being Christians, and I'm sure they mean it. However, there are certain habits in their lives that they've simply not surrendered to Jesus. There's a certain distance between them and God. And I can often tell. These men get a little involved in a local church, but not *that* involved. They come and go. They just dip their toe in the water. I can even *feel* that distance between this kind of man and myself. I've had guys tell me, "I tried to avoid you like the plague." Why? Because they were struggling with a sin and just being around me (I guess because of my profession? The Spirit?) they felt ashamed. Instead of being vulnerable and open about the struggle, *for which they would have received grace and love*, they remained distant. It always makes me sad for them. I've known "great" guys who are loyal to their families, but worship their work. They think that providing lots of toys or "stuff" is what their kids really need and want. They really owe their chief allegiance to their jobs. I've known guys who are so kind and encouraging, but routinely get drunk on the weekends and cuss/curse often when in other company. Well, these are terrible sins (e.g., Mark 4:18-19; 1 Cor. 5:11; 6:9-10; Eph. 4:29; 5:18). They just haven't surrendered *fully* yet. They practice sin habits that haven't "died" (cf. Rom. 6).



Typically, I've heard such people say things like, "I try to be a good person," as if that's what Jesus ever demanded or died for. He didn't. Not one time does Jesus say, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must try to be a good person." Honestly, I think the mantra, "trying to be a good person," assuages the guilt they feel when they do the thing they know they shouldn't do: "I know I shouldn't do X, but I'm a good person. I don't hurt anyone; or, I'm not as bad as some people."

What in the world makes us think that we can categorize our lives like this? Whatever gave us the idea that being Jesus's disciple means there are whole areas or routines of our lives that are off-limits to the claims of Jesus? Oswald Chambers once said, "Beware of stopping anywhere short of total surrender to God. Most of us have only a vision of what this really means, but have never truly experienced it." ("Total Surrender") Why not? Why haven't most of us "truly experienced it"?

I'm sure there are several reasons. One might list reasons such as: I've never *wanted* to give Him everything; I didn't *know* that I was supposed to; My sin habits are *fun or bring me some joy*; Giving up my old habits is *too difficult*; What I'm doing "on the side" *isn't really that bad* because I'm really a "good person"; I *don't really trust God*; Going "all in" is *for other people, like pastors and clergy*; I'm *scared to give it up*; I'm *too ashamed to receive help*; It would be *too painful to take off my fake mask that I wear around others*; I *find my identity* in that part of my life; *et al.* What would you add? What is your excuse if you make one (or more)?

I think one of the main reasons why people don't fully surrender is because *we really don't think that surrendering everything to Jesus is better than what we're presently doing*. This is typically reinforced by the belief that God is *merely* a Commanding Officer or Rule Enforcer, rather than a *Loving* Commanding Officer who is heaven-bent on making us perfected into the image of Jesus Himself (Rom. 8:29).

C. S. Lewis said it so well: "The proper good of a creature is to surrender itself to its Creator—to enact intellectually, volitionally, and emotionally, that relationship which is given in the mere fact of its being a creature. When it does so, it is good and happy... The Son of God's humble, trusting, loving, and complete surrender of himself to the will of his Father is difficult for us to fully grasp. But what we can and must grasp is that Jesus' pattern of self-giving is what God asks and expects of those whom he adopts as his sons and daughters. At its heart, such self-giving is not a matter of submitting to God's power but of surrendering to his love. When seen in this light, what once seemed unthinkable becomes attractive and desirable—though still scary and hard. Once made, our surrender must be lived out one day at a time in the obedience of faith and love. There will of course be times when the fallen nature rises up and we reassert our sinful self-will. But God's forgiveness and his empowering Holy Spirit will meet us each step of the way to help us enter ever more fully into intimacy with him and the Trinitarian life of heaven." (*The Problem of Pain*)



Imagine being so utterly surrendered to Jesus that you take inventory of every relationship and habit. Then, you pray for Him to speak to you: you ask Jesus to tell you if there's anything you need to surrender. You ask God for the courage to hear Him put His finger on the very thing that gets in the way of your discipleship. Then, you ask Him for the courage to release it. To let it go. To be free. To kill it. And, by His grace, you receive His strength and endurance in this most holy affair. Finally, you tell at least one trusted, Christian friend who can pray for you and support you.

Remember well: we can't give up even when we fail Him. We can't. We know that those who are in Christ are *not orphaned* (Matt. 28:20; John 15) and *have His Spirit to strengthen and lead us* (Rom. 8:14; 16:25; 1 Cor. 1:8). Moreover, God has *surrounded us* with fellow Christians in the exact same situation: each of us working to surrender all that we have to the profoundly gracious, loving Father who cleanses us (1 John 1:7; Gal. 6:1-2; Heb. 12:1-3).

Do you need a new start in 2018? Then surrender. Lay down your sins. Lay down the good and receive what's best. Release every aspect of your life to our good, trustworthy Lord. See how He takes those dead things in your life and grants you resurrection.

To help your growth in 2018, I've included inside the newsletter a Discipleship Assessment that you can use as a mirror. I encourage you to use it, pray over it, and see what areas in your life God can cause growth in during 2018.

For the Kingdom,

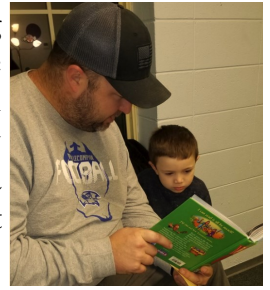
David

David W. Pendergrass, Ph.D.
Senior Pastor

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



January reminds us of a fresh start. Many begin their year by creating a list of (or choosing one) New Year's Resolution(s). There is one resolution that is more important than any other. While setting a goal to have a healthy lifestyle, to live on a lean budget, or to learn a new language is admirable, these do not have *eternal* value. May I suggest a goal/resolution with more merit? Deuteronomy 6:6-7 tells us that parents should talk with their children about God's commandments



at all times (when you wake up, are at home, are on the road, and before bed). As we begin a New Year, it's a great time to make a goal/resolution/commitment to do just that.



You may wonder where to start. Each time your child attends FCC Kids, he/she goes home with a Practice with Parents. This gives parents the opportunity to talk about the lesson with their child. Practice with Parents also includes a *try this* section, which provides parents with a tool to continue new learning at home. Another resource is



an online tool for parents: a website written by Elaine Pendergrass, Pastor to Children, called *Teaching Kids About God* (elainependergrass.com). Make a commitment to yourself, to your children, and to God to spend this year following the principle in Deuteronomy 6.

Elaine W. Pendergrass (Pastor to Children)

elaine@fcclawrence.org

 FCCLawrenceKids

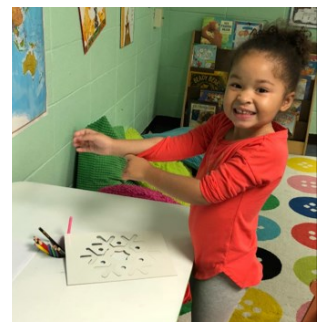
THE GIVING TREE PRESCHOOL



Happy New Year! I wish you and your family a blessed 2018! The Giving Tree ended the month of December with our annual Christmas Program. The evening was filled with an abundance of excitement. The sanctuary and balcony were overflowing with families beaming with pride as they watched their children celebrate the birth of Jesus through music. The evening continued with cookies, punch and wonderful fellowship. This was truly an evening of celebration for our most precious gift, Jesus. Thank you to the invaluable teachers, FCC staff, and volunteers for helping to make this a memorable evening.




January brings much excitement as we return back to school. The children are eager to see teachers and friends as well as get back into the school routine. We are looking forward to a great second semester. The month will begin with learning about winter and the weather that often accompanies this season. A special part of each day is sharing a Bible story with our classes. Throughout the spring semester, we will focus on stories from the New Testament.



The Giving Tree will begin enrollment for the 2018-2019 school year in February. If you have family, friends or neighbors with children 3 years old-kindergarten age interested in attending preschool, please have them contact The Giving Tree for more information.

Julie Hafenstine (The Giving Tree Preschool Director)

www.lawrencepreschool.com

 TheGivingTreePreschool



YOUTH & COLLEGE



I am looking forward to what God has in store for our youth students in 2018. FCC YTH is excited to implement the strategy of Gather, Grow, Go within its ministry. During the spring semester we will continue to gather on Wednesday nights, Sunday mornings, and on 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.

In January, on Wednesday nights, FCC YTH will be going through the series: “Four Chairs: Which One Is Yours?” It is hard for people to spiritually grow if they do not know or are not being honest with themselves about where they really are in their relationship with Jesus. We will dive in and discuss the various stages of a person’s relationship with Jesus. On Sunday mornings, FCC YTH will be going through a series called “Jesus Changes Everything.” This series will be a follow-up transition from ‘Jesus is the reason for the season’ to why this reason (Jesus) truly does change everything. We are all looking for changes in the new year, and this series is a great start to search and pray for that change.

Please Note: FCC YTH will not meet on January 3rd due to winter break. **February 11th** will be FCC YTH’s annual Valentine’s Dinner to fundraise for the camp and mission trip scholarships for participating students. **April 6-8th** will be Young Christian’s Weekend (YCW) in Branson, MO. Other events and dates are in the works and will be announced as soon as possible.

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



@fcc_yth



fbl.me/fccyth

ADULT DISCIPLESHIP



What do you really want in life? This was one of a series of questions David asked of us on a recent Sunday. That question should give each one of us pause to consider how deep our commitment is to our faith and to what or whom it is we desire to reign in our hearts in 2018 and beyond. If we at First Christian Church are to Gather to worship and care for our community, we must welcome deep personal connections with one another. In relationship with others, we will Grow to be like Jesus and together Go to share the gospel and serve the world.

Attending worship services alone, while essential, will not allow us to accomplish this mission. People need time each week to meet in a smaller group getting to know one another more personally, to carry one another’s burdens and to share in each other’s joys. Discipleship Groups (D Groups) at FCC exist for this purpose and to carry out the mission of the church. Here members are called upon to take personal accountability. As David has reminded us, “We encounter Jesus from different places,” but we can, nonetheless, function as committed Christians in community. Through prayer, encouragement, service and biblical study authentic relationships become an avenue to share life more truthfully. D Groups are centered around relationships. They exemplify the FCC commitment to Gather, to Grow, to Go.

What an exciting time to be a part of our church community. Jesus is here, and he is changing lives. 2018 is going to be a year of great growth at First Christian Church. There are already several active D Groups functioning within our church community with plans to add more in the upcoming year. We have been researching some new curriculum materials and options for new groups. Whether you have been attending our church for many years or are a new member, I am always interested in your ideas and welcome your input. Understanding your needs is an important part of my helping you become deeply connected. I am committed to helping each one of you become actively involved in a D Group that will provide you with opportunities for establishing truthful relationships, for growing in Christian maturity and for spreading the gospel to others. Beginning now, let us gather together fully committed to obeying all that Jesus has commanded us.

Tammie Caffee (Pastor of Adult Discipleship)

OUTREACH NEWS



Jesus is GOOD, as in VERY GOOD, with no falsehood or anything contrary to good. In Jesus we have tremendous hope, peace, & joy that we simply find in no one else, and nothing else. You know, I'm thankful for Jesus, and the privilege to have encountered Jesus. I consider it remarkable that "there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we are saved." (Acts 4:12) Yet, there is a sad reality that many nations/tribes/tongues/people groups throughout the world do not know this tremendous hope and abundant life that we have through Christ. Thankfully, we have incredibly purposeful lives as children of God as we accept the Father's invitation to join him in his work to GO to our neighbors and bless them with Christ. How are you Going to those around you? Would you like some encouragement and boldness in that?

Have you ever thought that Jesus in the New Testament seems like a sudden shift in God's work among people, and perhaps rather disconnected from the Old Testament. I sure used to feel that way. Over the past several years I have come to realize the beautiful consistency in God's earnest desire to redeem all peoples to himself through Christ. The theme of the all nations being blessed through Christ runs deep through the whole narrative of God's redemption story right from the beginning.

God has used the Perspectives on the World Christian Movement course in my life to help me understand the consistent purpose of God, the hope we have in Christ, and the remarkable opportunity to live purpose filled lives with God in sharing the blessing of Christ with others. I don't want you to miss out on the chance to be inspired, encouraged, and have your passion ignited to what God is doing, and will do through you! I invite each of you to join us for the upcoming Perspectives course which will be held here at FCC. Use what's in you to bless those around you. Perspectives will be held on Sundays 4-7pm, January 14th - April 29th. Children's programming included. Talk to Merry or me for more info. Registration & more info is at: Perspectives.org/LawrenceKS_S18

For the King, **David Nanne (Community Outreach)**

WORSHIP MINISTRY



As this festive season closes and the new year begins, we want to reflect on the true reason for the season. The birth of Jesus Christ is why we celebrate Christmas. Through being disciples of Christ, we want to praise our God for giving us the gift of His son. What better way to praise Father, Son, and Holy Spirit but through the birth narrative. The text, traditions, and songs that surround the season of Christmas can act as a "reset" for our faith journeys. The prayer of the Worship Ministry at FCC is that your personal walk with Jesus Christ has been recharged throughout Advent and Christmas. May the celebration of our Savior continue in to 2018.



2018 will bring continued opportunities for FCC Lawrence to worship. Through scripture, teaching, song, and prayer, the truth we find in our God will continue to be shared. We can come to the altar each Sunday and remember the sacrifice of Christ on the cross. Don't take the new year for granted. Every moment we have to worship our God is precious. Continue to celebrate the good news of Jesus, and you'll be unable to keep your genuine faith to yourself. True discipleship will happen through true, uninhibited worship. Allow yourself to praise Him without fear of judgement, and He will give you the discernment and strength to share your faith with others.

We'd like to thank Dr. Tandy Reussner for her 11 years of faithful service to the Worship Ministry at FCC Lawrence. We will miss her talents in musical excellence, but will most of all be losing her humble, servant's heart towards the worship of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Please join us in thanking Tandy for her service to FCC Lawrence, and praying for her journey as she continues to pursue excellence in instrumental musicianship in order to lead others to worship.

Matthew Mulnix - Modern Worship Leader | Greg Boyle - Traditional Worship Leader
matthew@fcclawrence.org greg@fcclawrence.org

Psalm 95:6 (ESV) Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

CARE & CONNECTIONS



Since accepting the title of Pastor of Care and Connections I have begun to get organized. There are 13 separate ministries of care that function within First Christian Church. Some of the ministries have greater responsibilities but all are essential in providing care throughout our church family.

The following is a list of current ministries: Bread, Card, Funeral Dinners/Receptions, Hospital & Rehabilitation Visitation & Surgery Waiting, Kitchen Coordination, Meals, New Births, Prayer Chain, Prayer Ministry, Prayer Shawl, Prayer Warriors, Shut-In Card/Phone Contact & Visitation, Thanksgiving & Christmas Benevolence Gifts & Cards, Transportation, and Weddings.

Most of the ministries are being managed; however, some need further participation, beyond the main contact. If you have an interest in volunteering for a specific ministry, your participation will be welcomed. We still need contact people in Kitchen Coordination and visitations.

We have plans to facilitate a Grief Share Ministry. Grief Share helps those going through the grieving process; from the loss of a spouse, mother, father, other family member or close friend. It will be a class of approximately 10-12 sessions that will provide Christian study to help the grieving through the stages of grief and times of sharing. Our class coordinator will be Brock Caffee.

I will be interactive with Tammie Caffee in the New Member and D-Group ministries and with David and Merry Nanne in the Outreach Ministry. Through God's wisdom and guidance I look forward to the care and connections we can make work at First Christian Church.

Marita Elliott (Pastor of Care and Connections)

BROCK CAFFEE, LCMFT



I started attending Sunday services at FCC, Lawrence about 2 years ago after I moved from California with my family. At the time my wife and I were looking for a home church, where we could worship with our children. We were excited to see that this was a place to not only worship on Sundays but where we might all use our gifts to glorify God throughout the week as well. I was originally baptized into a different Christian tradition where I frequently felt that church was simply part of the weekly routine, but I feel a much greater depth of meaning in membership at this church. FCC Lawrence embodies the warmth of family and has truly given my family an opportunity to glorify God and follow Jesus through our service to others.

I am willing to serve in any way I can as I work to follow Jesus and make disciples, but today I feel that I have been called to offer the FCC community some professional services. In my 12 years' experience as a Marriage and Family Therapist, I have helped a wide variety of individuals, families, and couples as they cope with life and relationships. My specialty has been helping school-aged children and their families, but in that work, I have helped both child and adult clients cope with many different issues. I have significant experience in the following areas: depression, major mood disorders, suicidal thoughts, anxiety, PTSD, psychotic disorders, personality disorders, relationship distress, child behavior and emotional issues, divorce/reconciliation, homelessness, unemployment, adoption/foster children, domestic violence, child abuse, workplace stress, and substance use.

In conjunction with my private practice in the downtown Lawrence area, I will be offering a number of therapy, counseling, or consultation spots to those in attendance at FCC for free. Feel free to contact me if you or someone you know might benefit from counseling. I would be honored to help. I am excited about the new friends I have here, and I hope to make many more over the years as we work together to glorify God and make disciples of Jesus through our service to others!

Call or text me at the number below. I'd love to hear from you!

Brock Caffee, LCMFT

(785)551-2304 | brockcaffee@familystrategiescounseling.com

STEWARDSHIP

If you haven't yet turned in a pledge card it is not too late! We are lacking in what we need to support our proposed budget for 2018. Based on pledges, loose offering, and non-pledged funds we are at about 70% of what is needed. If you have not pledged, please consider doing so. While we do have ample reserves, the Trustees would prefer not to have to use them. If you could consider an additional gift for 2018, it would be very much appreciated. The staff and leadership of FCC are so very excited about the New Year and feel that we have everything in place to bring new families to the church. There is such a need in our community to make disciples, we ask that you continue to support us in that mission!

As it has been said many times, we are so thankful for the faithful support, the generous contributions and for the love that each one of you have for FCC. Without the gift of your time talents and resources the ministry of FCC could not continue.

Below we have provided the YTD totals for the Unified Budget at the end of November. We are showing YTD net income of \$14,948. At the end of November, we should be at 91.67% of the budget, income is at 89.83% and expenses at 87.21%. The Unified Budget includes contribution income only, operating expenses and church support for Missions and Outreach.

Unified Budget As of November 2017

YTD Income	\$ 439,237.00
YTD Expense	\$ 424,289.00
YTD Net Income/(Loss)	\$ 14,948.00

COMMUNITY AT FIRST CHRISTIAN

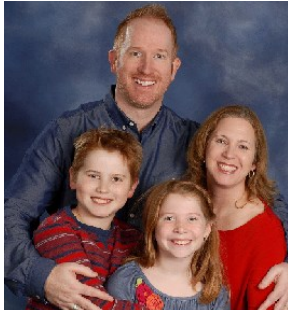


MEET THE ELDERS 2018

Elders are the spiritual shepherds of the church. The Elder Board is responsible for making certain the Mission and Strategy of First Christian is being accomplished in the various ministries.



Marita Elliott first came to FCC in 1984 after she and her husband, Sam Elliott (former Elder, now deceased), moved to Lawrence in 1983. They attended and participated regularly, then moved away in 1990, only to return in 2010. Sam passed away in December, 2015. They were married 33 years and shared 6 children, 11 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren. Since returning, Marita became involved in teaching Sunday School, the Care Ministry Team, the Worship Ministry Team and became an Elder. "I'm excited knowing that Christ is our Sovereign Shepherd and He is in complete control of our church - we are in His hands, and only through prayer will we come together tighter."



Dr. David Pendergrass is a graduate of Gardner-Webb University (B.A: Christian Studies; Music), the School of Divinity at Gardner-Webb University (M.Div.: Biblical Studies with Counseling), and Baylor University (PhD: Historical Theology; Biblical Backgrounds/New Testament). Dr. David Pendergrass has worked at various churches in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Texas. He has served as a Hospice Chaplain, leadership and organizational consultant, and counselor for around twenty years. He is happily married to Elaine (18 years) and has two awesome kids: Hayden (13) and Julia (10).



Sheri Penny has been a member of FCC since 1987, when she started attending with her husband Dean. Sheri and Dean have been married for 30 years and have two adult children, Kristin (28) and Michael (22). Through the years, Sheri has been involved in many different ministries here at First Christian. She continues her position on the Elder Board; has taught Sunday school, Children's Church, VBS, served on the Worship Ministry Team, and on the Youth Search Committee. "I believe God is in our midst and I'm excited to see what he has in store for us in 2018."



Hyacinth Self works for Lawrence Memorial Hospital in the pharmacy. She loves her husband Jim, their 7 children and 9-plus grandchildren, tacos, and chocolate. She enjoys reading, sewing, camping, hiking, fishing, snow skiing, motorcycle riding, and playing 12-string guitar all for the glory of God. Hyacinth has attended FCC since the 60's and enjoyed volunteering for many years of VBS and countless youth trips. She's looking forward to many more great adventures at FCC in 2018 as an elder.



Jim Self was baptized at FCC and a few years later married Hyacinth. Jim and Hyacinth have 7 children between them, and have (9) plus grandchildren. Jim is the National Account Manager for FarmChem Corp. a manufacturer of crop protection and fertilizer dispensing, handling, and storage equipment. He pretty much likes everything outdoors playing golf; snow skiing, hunting, hiking, and motorcycle riding. He is looking forward to continuing to serve on the Elder board, has served several times on the Trustee board, has been on many youth mission trips and youth events, supporter of Family Promise, and other outreach programs.

MEET THE TRUSTEES 2018

The Trustees are the stewards of the finances and facilities of the Church. The Trustee Board is responsible for making sure the various ministries and church entities are remaining fiscally responsible to the annual budget, and to the maintenance, betterment, and security of the facilities of the church.



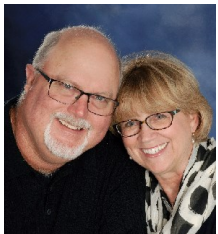
Jim Congrove and his wife Dorothy have been members of FCC for more than 20 years. They have three adult children, nine grand- children and one great-grandson. Jim retired from farming and also from the Kansas Department of Agriculture and as a crop insurance adjuster. In retirement he enjoys gardening and other outdoor activities.



Heather Graves grew up in Lawrence, KS. She started attending First Christian Church in February of 2017 with her husband, Terry and son, Wyatt. Currently, she runs her family business, Living Wealth, alongside her Father, two sisters and 3 other family members. Heather loves Jesus, and desires to build relationships with others so they can experience the love of Jesus, and the freedom that comes from serving Him and loving others. Her life verse is Prov. 3:5-6



Shawn Henderson is husband to Suzanne and father to Zachary and Tori. Suzanne and I started attending FCC in 1987 and became members in 1989. We have both been involved in various ministries in the church over the last 30 years. Suzanne taught Sunday school for 15 years while I have been an Elder for 3 different terms, Elder chair 1 term, trustee for 3 years, Leadership Board 8 years and church Moderator 2 years. I have always felt a special connection to FCC and cherish the partnership this church had in helping me raise my family.



Lisa Hoag attended the University of Kansas and was born and raised in Lawrence. She is a long time member of First Christian and has worked at the church for over 20 years and in the accounting field for over 30. She and her husband Chuck have 4 wonderful children, one grandson and a very spoiled dog named Lily. "It is such a privilege to serve God and His people here at First Christian."



Dan Matthews has been attending First Christian Church with his wife Janet since 2004 and has been a member since 2010. Dan and Janet have been married for 20 years and have two children, Parkerson (16) and Walter (10). Dan sings in the Choir and has served in a supporting capacity for audio/visual resources for both services and special events. "I am honored and excited having been asked to serve and support the church beginning in 2017. I am looking forward to working with my fellow trustees in maintaining and improving the resources needed for spreading the Word of God."




Aaron White has been a member since 2013 when he started attending with his future wife Valerie. Aaron and Valerie have been married for 2 years and have 3 children, Henry (9), River (2) and Lucille (6 mos). Aaron is new to volunteering his time at First Christian and is looking forward to future opportunities. "Church is not something that you go to, it's a family you belong to."

REFRIGERATOR PAGE

Sermon series in January



EVERY TONGUE, TRIBE & NATION



GRIEF AND FORGIVENESS
WHAT, WHY, AND HOW

The Pastor's Study commencing January 10 at 6pm

MADE
FOR
MORE

USE WHAT'S IN YOU TO BLESS
THE WORLD AROUND YOU



Perspectives™
On the World Christian Movement

January 14th – April 29th
Sundays 4-7pm
First Christian Church
Cost: \$250

Come check it out!
Attend the first
night FREE!

Info & Registration at:
Perspectives.org

FCC Kids



LUNCH & LIBRARY

JANUARY 14TH | 12-3PM



**PANCAKES
WITH THE PASTOR**

JANUARY 6TH | 9AM | THE BIG BISCUIT



A Love that Endures
a workshop on healthy marriage

February 9-10

Register on the FCC website "Events" page.



NEW MEMBERS CLASS

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR CHURCH

First Sunday of every month in the
Fellowship Hall at 10:15am

Sunday, January 7th
10:15am | Fellowship Hall.
Come to learn more about FCC.



JOY

JUST OLDER YOUTH

Thursday, January 11th
11am | Perkins Restaurant
1711 W 23rd St



L.I.N.K.

Lawrence
Interdenominational
Nutrition Kitchen

FCC Serves L.I.N.K.
Sunday, January 14th | 12:30pm
Sign up at the Welcome Desk.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

1000 Kentucky Street • Lawrence KS 66044

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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
Lisa Hoag, Business Administrator	lisa@fcclawrence.org
Maddie Markley, Office Coordinator	office@fcclawrence.org
Matthew Mulnix, Modern Worship	matthew@fcclawrence.org
Paul Porter, Pastor to Youth and College	paul@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 4pm (closed 12-1pm)

785-843-0679

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