

# FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH



Hey Church Family!

Church is a wonderful place to see how people value different things, both by Christians and non-Christians. Paul encountered this in the very first churches (e.g., Phil. 2:1-2; 1 Cor. 1:10). One of the main reasons why it can be so difficult to “get on the same page” with fellow Christians is because we value different things. Moreover, one of the chief reasons why non-Christians stay away from churches is because they value different things than Christians. They simply see the Church as irrelevant; the Church is not seen as the place to meet their needs. Here are some quick reflections on why this is the case.

First, God designed humans with primal, basic needs. You and me—Christians and non-Christians—are constantly making choices in life because it meets at least one need.

Second, there are needs people *know they have*, i.e., they are conscious of those needs expressed in their beliefs and feelings, and needs they *don't know they have*. And it is crucial to understand both. For example, a child doesn't know she has a great need to study because her grades significantly affect her ability to make it into university. She doesn't know that's a need, of course, because she can't grasp the future as a child. She has this need; she's just not feeling or is not consciously aware of this need. Her future responsibilities don't weigh on her at all. However, she is aware that she has other needs, like eating, sleeping, drinking, playing with toys, etc.

The same is true of those who don't go to church. We can tell non-Christians all day long until our nose bleeds that they “have a need to know Jesus and be forgiven and join our incredible community of believers...” The only problem is, they don't care. In general, they are not aware of that need. They really don't care about those needs because they don't see them as needs (even though they're mistaken). Here's a perfect example of what I mean. Previous generations held a general sense of morality and doing the “right thing.” In general, the younger generations in our country (at least) do not believe in objective morality. They don't fear judgment from God because they don't believe in God. They're not living in guilt or shame. They deliberately hang out with other people who behave like they do, feel complete social acceptance, and continue to behave how they want. They are **not** guilt-ridden. They are **not** seeking grace. They are **not** looking for “religion.” (I just heard a few days ago—again!—how this person “hated religion.”) Of course there are exceptions to this rule, but in general, this is true.

Third, you could (a) list several needs that are common to every human, and (b) list certain needs that particular generations have. Let's think about both points seriatim:

- (a) What are some common human needs? Safety, food, water, shelter, love, esteem (feeling valuable or loveable), et al.
- (b) And while there are numerous needs common to all people, there are also specific needs to different generations. And, of course, generalities and stereotypes exist whenever we talk about what an entire generation of people think or feel. So, I'm aware that not every single person fits these categories. Yet, these categories are still helpful. (Here is a helpful overview: <http://www.marketingteacher.com/the-six-living-generations-in-america/>)

Those born **before** the 1970s and 80s (called “The Silent” generation and then the “Baby Boomer” generation) **have the needs**

- To build institutions that last, and institutions are always associated with a physical thing (which means they love buildings and pews and chairs and rooms)
- To leave a “legacy” (which means they love placards and bricks with their names on it; and to tell younger generations about what they've built)
- To follow social etiquette established by their parents and authority figures (which means they can feel very guilty if they break the “rules” within the church, like “not running” or “not wearing your Sunday-best clothes” or “not being completely quiet and still during the sermon”)
- To feel safe by establishing stability, traditions, and patterns
- To be identified by their involvement in a peer group (especially peer groups that are respected—the more “institutionalized” the better)
- To be certain in what they believe and a sense of having it “figured out”

Those born during and after the 1980s (called Generation X, then Y, then Z) **have the needs**

- To question the usefulness and integrity of institutions (which means they have no loyalty in maintaining or paying for the very institutions their parents and grandparents built—seen any empty church buildings lately?)
- To be involved in “causes” that help (like orphans, endangered animals, widows, AIDS victims, homeless, etc.) regardless if those causes are related to a church at all because it gives them a purpose and meaning in life (and because it's “cool” to support causes)

- To be accepted just as they are (which means they really, really disdain any hint of judgment or condemnation)
- To be adaptable to the culture at large (This is crucial! They are more influenced by social media and Hollywood than churches or institutions; being “uncool” or not modern is very embarrassing)
- To experience things; to feel passion and emotions (i.e., more feeling than simply thinking about, which is why they are more open to charismatic traditions; for more see [https://www.barna.org/barna-update/faith-spirituality/360-how-different-generations-view-and-engage-with-charismatic-and-pentecostal-christianity#.VID5dDHF\\_QU](https://www.barna.org/barna-update/faith-spirituality/360-how-different-generations-view-and-engage-with-charismatic-and-pentecostal-christianity#.VID5dDHF_QU))
- To maintain and express their individuality, even if they do have some need to be in a peer group (which also means they are supremely confident that they can “find God” or meaning/purpose apart from the Church; they believe they can do “spirituality” all on their own)
- To doubt what they believe/not have it all figured out
- (For statistical proof of what I’m saying, see [https://www.barna.org/barna-update/culture/661-americans-divided-on-the-importance-of-church#.VID5\\_THF\\_QU](https://www.barna.org/barna-update/culture/661-americans-divided-on-the-importance-of-church#.VID5_THF_QU); also read the book, *Generation iY*)

(\*\*If you didn’t already, now you see why the generations squabble over the style of worship? Each side approaches the issue with different needs to be met and judges anyone else who doesn’t see it their way. You could say the same about paying the bills on the building, the color of the carpet, whether or not your preacher wears a tie, and on and on the generational battles rage. The real sad part of the battles is this: every generation dies off. *So many churches are headed for complete closure in 10, 20, or 50 years because of their refusal to adapt at all to the different generational needs.*)



I really hope that you’ve read those descriptions carefully, especially if it’s one that’s not your generation. Some people choose to stay in constant protest: “I don’t like those other values! Why don’t they just see it my way, the way God intended?!” If you stay in constant protest about how other generations have different values than you do, it greatly limits the degree to which you can remain united in Christ for His Kingdom.

Fourth, people might initially come to your church to meet certain needs; but they might stay in your church to meet other needs. This distinction matters much. Much could be said about this, but here’s a quick example: Younger generations chiefly come to a church because they were invited by someone who was “cool” or “normal,” or they were seeking out meaning/purpose/spirituality (all related to them), or they wanted to join a cause associated with the church. (This means they do **not** usually come because of a sense of social obligation, because they want to leave a legacy, because they have such a positive view of the church or Christians, etc..)

They will be intrigued by their visit if they feel (1) safe/not judged (i.e., accepted as they are; not expected to change their clothes or whatever to be accepted; they will call this “friendly” if you ask them); (2) entertained by their experience (i.e., their senses are tantalized by modern visual images and logos, modern-sounding music, etc.); and (3) hear a message from a preacher that sounds inviting, speaks of meaning and purpose, and addresses their real-world issues they face every day (like divorce, relationships, money, job struggles, etc.). They need to understand how God, the Bible, the Church interacts with their daily routines and with real issues in the world. (For statistical proof of what I’m saying, see [https://www.barna.org/barna-update/millennials/635-5-reasons-millennials-stay-connected-to-church#.VID32zHF\\_QU](https://www.barna.org/barna-update/millennials/635-5-reasons-millennials-stay-connected-to-church#.VID32zHF_QU))

If all of those things happen, and finally, they make some honest-to-God, authentic relationships with people, they’ll stay. Once they get involved in the church, they will discover their sin and need for forgiveness. All the while, their generational needs never go away. For example, since younger generations aren’t loyal to institutions, they are very likely to attend their local church sporadically. They can genuinely believe they are part of a Church, even while they can make nearly any excuse not to go. They just don’t feel compelled or obligated to attend or give money like previous generations did/do. Younger generations make all kinds of things as greater priority than church attendance—things which previous generations would never have done—like their job, or kids’ sports, or parties, or whatever.

It is imperative for churches, including our own, really to embrace these facts. For us to keep united in being obedient to Jesus and His purpose for our church (“to make disciples of Jesus”), we have to be sensitive to our own biases and values, and sensitive to the biases and values of other generations. We must be aware of them, yes; and we must never let those generational needs or preferences cause us to behave unchristian or get us off course of our purpose. Moreover, we must remember these various needs when we share the gospel with the un-churched: it enables us to articulate the gospel in ways that connect with them.

For the Kingdom,

*David*

David W. Pendergrass, Ph.D. Senior Pastor

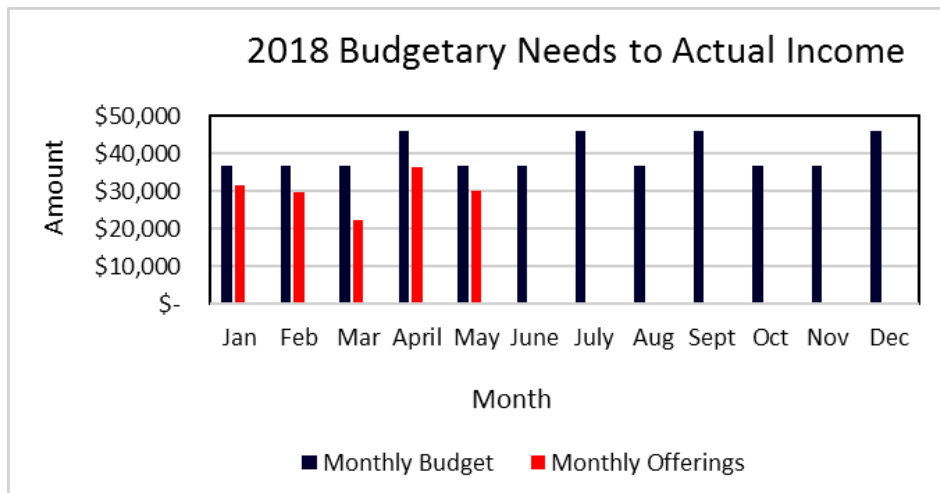
# STEWARDSHIP

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 are excited about 2018. The church is growing and sometimes it takes a little time for the finances to catch up. As we have mentioned in previous monthly newsletters, we are lacking in what we need to support our budget for 2018. Based on pledges, loose offering, and non-pledged funds we are at about 70% of what is needed. To keep the congregation informed, we will be including the chart below each month to show our average income needed compared to our monthly offerings.

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 we 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 May numbers are preliminary, any change should be minimal. The Trustees will meet later this month to approve the May statements.



Apr Budget (5)	\$ 46,022
Apr Actual	\$ 36,293
Apr Deficit	\$ 9,729
May Budget (4)	\$ 36,817
May Actual	\$ 30,084
May Deficit	\$ 6,733

We were about 21% behind where we needed to be for April and 19% behind for May. At this rate, on average, we will be behind roughly \$107,000 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](mailto: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 Lisa in the Finance Office.

## *Ways to Give*

**Online** - [fcclawrence.org](http://fcclawrence.org) - Click the "Give" Button **Phone** - Text fcclawrence to 77977  
**Offering Plate** – Each Sunday **Mail** – First Christian Church, 1000 Kentucky Street, Lawrence, Ks 66044

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Hi Church Family!

Summer is upon us, and it gives children the chance to recuperate from a long school year and to look forward to the future. As adults, we generally do this as we ring in the New Year, yet the end of a school year is another great way to reflect and look ahead.

So, here's a snapshot of the 2017-2018 school year in FCC Kids:

- **Back to School Splash:** Families enjoyed water slides and water games to celebrate the start of school.
- **Trunk or Treat:** Nearly 900 people from the community enjoyed trunk-or-treating, games, inflatables, and fun.
- **Family Advent Nights:** Families gathered and learned about the *real* reason we celebrate Christmas.
- **Share the Love:** Kids made cards and delivered them to senior adults at Vermont Towers.
- **M & M (Mom & Me):** Mothers and children spent quality time together at church.
- **Sunday Attendance:** Each Sunday, about 22 children attended FCC Kids to grow in faith and have fun in the process.




Looking ahead to Summer 2018 and beyond:

**VBS:** June 4-8 | **Drivin' With Dad:** June 22 | **Park & Play:** July 19 | **Back to School Splash:** August 12

**Elaine W. Pendergrass (Pastor to Children)**

[elaine@fcclawrence.org](mailto:elaine@fcclawrence.org)

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

## THE GIVING TREE PRESCHOOL



We have had an awesome year at The Giving Tree! May was a busy month full of exploring and fun. We enjoyed learning about sea life and the ocean. Later in the month, we turned our attention to summer safety and even had a visit from the Lawrence Fire Department. The firefighters dressed in their gear and talked to us about fire safety. The children were able to sit in the fire truck and took turns spraying the fire hose! As one child put it, it was an amazing outdoor day!

Our school year ended with our Moving-Up Celebration. At this program, we recognized students moving up to another year of preschool as well as those moving onto kindergarten.



The celebration also included a slide show of our wonderful year and the best part was the singing of some of our favorite songs. Preschool children singing about Jesus sure fills a person's heart with love and joy!

We have such a special preschool! I am truly blessed to work alongside a wonderful group of teachers and volunteers. Each person is an intricate part of what makes The Giving Tree so successful while providing a loving Christian environment. I appreciate each one of them

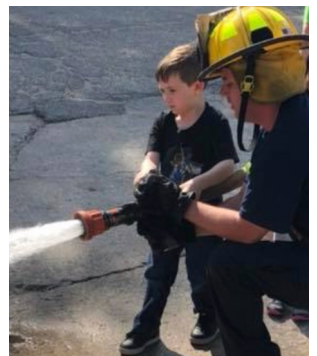
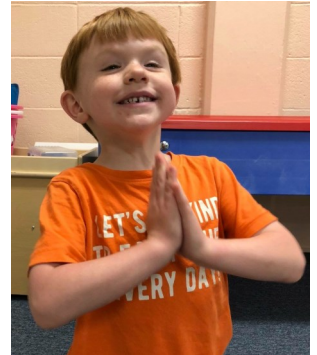
very much! Thank you to the FCC staff and church family for your prayers and continued support of our fantastic preschool!

**Julie Hafenstine (The Giving Tree Preschool Director)**

[www.lawrencepreschool.com](http://www.lawrencepreschool.com)



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



## YOUTH MINISTRY



Now that our students are out of school for the summer, I am looking forward to what God has in store for our youth students during the summer. FCC YTH is excited to implement the strategy of Gather, Grow, Go within its ministry.

During the summer break we will continue to gather 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 collec-

tively. 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 summer, on Wednesday nights, FCC YTH will be going through 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 be start 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:

June 4-8: Vacation Bible School (VBS) (On June 6, FCC YTH will help VBS instead of normal youth gathering.)  
July 16-20: Super Summer Camp

Please Note: Starting on June 13, FCC YTH will change our gathering time to 6:00-7:30 PM. Doors will still open at 5:00 PM, but we are moving our worship start and end time up 30 minutes, so our student ministry's time will end at the same time as the adult study on Wednesday nights.

**Paul Porter (Pastor to Youth and College)**

paul@fcclawrence.org



@fcc\_yth



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)**

paul@fcclawrence.org

## WORSHIP MINISTRY

**The FCC Choir** has begun our Summer hiatus. Many thanks to the choir for their dedicated servant hearts and willingness to share their gifted voices. What an honor and privilege it is to honor the Lord in song and to encourage the church. If you're interested in joining the choir when they begin singing again in September, please contact Greg Boyle at greg@fcclawrence.org.

**Greg Boyle (Traditional Worship Director)**

greg@fcclawrence.org

# COMMUNITY AT FCC



# REFRIGERATOR PAGE

## MONDAYS IN JUNE SOFTBALL

PAUL PORTER: PAUL@FCCLAWRENCE.ORG

PASTOR'S STUDY WEDNESDAYS 6PM

## THE WORTHY LIFE

A STUDY OF 1 & 2 THESSALONIANS

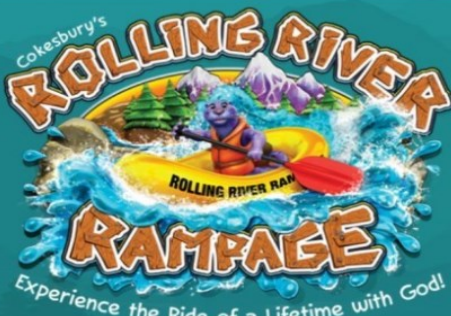
## PANCAKES WITH THE PASTOR

SAT, JUNE 2ND, 9AM, THE BIG BISCUIT

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT JOINING FCC?

## COFFEE & QUESTIONS

SUNDAY JUNE 3RD, 10:15AM, FELLOWSHIP HALL



JUNE 4-8TH, 5:30PM, FCC KIDS MINISTRY

SUNDAY, JUNE 10TH, 12:30PM

## LINK

SIGN UP IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

THURS, JUNE 14TH, 11AM, THE BIG BISCUIT

## JOY

JUST OLDER YOUTH

Drivin' With Dad  
June 22nd 2018, 6:30PM



# FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

1000 Kentucky Street • Lawrence KS 66044

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



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Elaine Pendergrass, Pastor to Children	<a href="mailto:elaine@fcclawrence.org">elaine@fcclawrence.org</a>
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Want to make an announcement? Send an email to [social@fcclawrence.org](mailto: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