

# FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

## LAWRENCE, KANSAS

Hello Church Family!



I'm so happy to have new members at First Christian! Here are just a couple pictures of those who have joined recently. And, there are more on the way! God is doing some amazing things in people's lives. I'm so honored to be a witness to what God is doing. Please be sure to say hello to William and Chelsea Wenger, Dr. E.J. Chaney, Mitchell and Susan Chaney, Everardo and Sonia Cazares, and Clay Walker. (If you've not joined yet, but are interested, come to the short class the first Sunday every month at 10:15am in the Fellowship Hall.)



Any financial specialist will tell you that it's very wise for families to consider carefully what they want to accomplish, what kind of income they have, and what kind of expenditures they have. Then, the goal is to work within that budget so that you don't go into debt. Healthy churches do the same thing. At the end of each year, it's common for churches to have a season of planning for the future. First Christian also has such a season. We're asking you to consider in what way you might be able to support the ministries at First Christian financially (see the next page for more).

There were several seasons in my life where me and my mom were nearly penurious. There is not much more in life that can make you feel more vulnerable than not having resources to purchase food, clothes, or shelter. Money gives us a sense of security. I can tell of many, many times that God supplied "all my needs in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:19).

And, it's quite easy for money to give us *way too much security*. This is why the Biblical authors repeatedly give severe warnings to the rich (e.g., Proverbs 15:16-17, Ecclesiastes 5:10-12, Mark 10:23-27; Luke 1:52-53, 6:20, 6:24-25; James 5:1-6; Rev. 3:17). Even Jesus tells his disciples not to store money for themselves (Matt 6:19, 24; Lk 12:20-21) so that they can be as generous as possible. While the rich are never told to become poor (except when their wealth gets in the way of their discipleship, like in Mark 10:21), they are *supposed to care of the needs of the poor* (Acts 4:34-35; 1 John 3:17; 1 Tim 6:17-19; James 2:5-6; 5:1-6; Heb 13:5-6).

The Apostle Paul knew full well what it was like to be completely destitute or wealthy, be full or be hungry (Phil. 4:11-12). Paul says that he has learned how to find "contentment" no matter what. The Greek term translated, "contentment" is actually "self-sufficiency," a term used among ancient Stoics to denote serenity because one has no need of anything more than what a person already has. That person wants nothing from anyone, and is therefore, self-sufficient. As soon as Paul says that he is "self-sufficient/content," Paul says that the *source* of that sufficiency is "the one who strengthens me" (4:13). So, Paul has no need of *other people* (= "self-sufficient") because He knows that His God will "strengthen" him in any endeavor. Notice how Paul is *not* content *because he has financial resources*; he is content because he is *equipped and enabled by the "nearness" of a God* (cf. 4:5) *who strengthens*.



This month in my sermons, I'll be reflecting on a few key passages in the New Testament which speak of what we do with what we value, including money. I hate guilt messages. I don't give them. Instead, I pray that this new series both encourages and challenges you to live a life obedient to the teaching of Jesus, who said to "treasure up our treasure boxes in Heaven" because "where your treasure is, there will your heart also be" (Matt. 6:19-21). Where is your heart? Where do you find contentment: in your money, education, status, or some other silly, temporary thing?

At the end of this month, Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>, we begin the season of Advent. "Advent" comes from the Latin term, *adventus*, meaning "arrival" or "coming." Christians have celebrated the arrival of Jesus in two ways: His arrival in Bethlehem as a child, and His arrival at the Second Coming in glory as Judge and Redeemer. It's not easy to wait when we want rescue. I hope you'll come to church during the season of Advent and Christmas to reflect on what the Bible says about the most important arrival in all of history.

For the Kingdom,

*David*  
Senior Pastor

# CHURCH WIDE NEWS

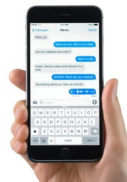


*Do not accumulate for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. But accumulate for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. For **where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**" (Matt. 6:19-21 NET)*

There is no better way to begin our 2017 Stewardship Campaign for our beloved First Christian Church than making our commitment based upon "Where my Heart is" for FCC.

Our Stewardship campaign begins Sunday, October 30th and concludes Sunday, November 13th. We ask for your prayers and consideration of your level of support for all that FCC does for yourself, our church, our community, and our world.

The Trustees must know the total of all pledges in order to provide a firm budget for the Elders to approve before the end of November. *Please complete it and give it to the Church either in the offering plate on Sunday, or send it to the FCC office.* This pledge drive begins Sunday, October 30, 2017 and concludes 3 weeks later on Sunday, November 13, 2017. On that day, we will gather for our Annual Church Meeting and share a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner together. Thank you for your prayerful consideration! We are excited to see what God has planned for First Christian in 2017!



Did you know you can receive encouraging texts on your phone throughout the week? The service is free and easy to start. All you have to do is text **First Christian** to number 69922.



Are you interested in joining the church? Joining First Christian helps you garner a network of friends who can encourage you and challenge you as we follow Jesus together. Before you do, be sure to attend the short class for potential members. This one-time class takes place the first Sunday of every month at 10:15am in the Fellowship Hall.

# CHURCH WIDE NEWS

WE NEED YOU IN THE  
FCC FAMILY ALBUM!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

DEC. 14 1:30-8PM  
DEC. 15 1:30-8PM  
DEC. 16 1:30-8PM  
DEC. 17 9:30AM-4PM



FCC is having a photo directory made. You or your family will be able to come take pictures on Dec. 14-16<sup>th</sup> from 1:30-8pm and Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> from 9:30am-4pm



Save the Date – Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup> is our Annual Church Meeting at 5pm followed by our Thanksgiving Dinner at 5:30 pm. We will be voting on a slate of officers for the church. Please pray for the Elders as they finalize the list of those names that will be presented. For the dinner, please bring your favorite Thanksgiving side dish that will serve about 12 people. The church will furnish turkey, stuffing, rolls, dessert and drinks. Please reserve your spot no later than Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup>. Reservation sheets can be found in the Sunday bulletin, in Fellowship Hall or you may send an e-mail to [office@fclawrence.org](mailto:office@fclawrence.org).



Don't forget! Daylight saving time will end at 2 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 6. So, turn your clocks back one hour before you go to bed Saturday night, Nov. 5.

# UPCOMING EVENTS



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|--------------|--|
| <b>Nov 1</b> | PATH Exercise Group<br>Cub Scouts Class<br>Elder's Meeting<br>Lydia Ladies |
| <b>Nov 2</b> | Ruth CWF<br>Jr & Sr High Youth<br>Pastor's Study<br>Worship Team Practice  |
| <b>Nov 3</b> | PATH Exercise Group<br>Women's Bible Study<br>Choir Rehearsal              |
| <b>Nov 5</b> | PeaceMakers  |
| <b>Nov 7</b> | Prayer Shawl Ministry  |
| <b>Nov 8</b> | PATH Exercise Group<br>Cub Scouts<br>Children's Advisory Team              |
| <b>Nov 9</b> | Jr & Sr High Youth<br>Pastor's Study                                       |

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|------------------|---|
| <b>Nov 9</b>     | Worship Team Practice   |
| <b>Nov 10</b>    | PATH Exercise Group<br>Women's Bible Study<br>Choir Rehearsal                               |
| <b>Nov 13</b>    | Congregational Meeting<br>Thanksgiving Dinner<br>FCC Serves LINK                            |
| <b>Nov 14</b>    | PeaceMakers   |
| <b>Nov 14-21</b> | Operation Christmas Child   |
| <b>Nov 15</b>    | PATH Exercise Group<br>Cub Scouts   |
| <b>Nov 16</b>    | Warm Hearts<br>Jr & Sr High Youth<br>Kid's Group<br>Pastor's Study<br>Worship Team Practice |

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| <b>Nov 17</b> | PATH Exercise Group<br>Women's Bible Study<br>Youth Advisory Team<br>Choir Rehearsal |
| <b>Nov 21</b> | Trustee's Meeting  |
| <b>Nov 22</b> | PATH Exercise Group<br>Cub Scouts  |
| <b>Nov 23</b> | Jr & Sr High Youth<br>Pastor's Study<br>Worship Team                                 |
| <b>Nov 24</b> | PATH Exercise Group<br>Women's Bible Study<br>Choir Rehearsal                        |
| <b>Nov 29</b> | PATH Exercise Group<br>Cub Scouts  |
| <b>Nov 30</b> | Jr & Sr High Youth<br>Pastor's Study<br>Worship Team Practice                        |

# WORSHIP MINISTRY NEWS

October has been a wonderful month for the Worship Ministry at First Christian Church. I have sincerely enjoyed working alongside the Worship Team, and adding members, tools, and resources to our already amazing collective. I'm looking forward to an amazing Christmas season. We're introducing new songs, welcoming new team members, and continuing to set goals for excellence in Worship.



## October Offertories

10/2: "Be Thou My Vision" - Women's Ensemble

10/2 (Modern Service): "God is Able" - Vocals and Guitar by Matthew Mulnix

10/9: "Wonderful Peace" - Violin by Abbie Treff, Piano by Judy Chadwick

10/16: "The Reason" - Vocals and Ukulele by Jenna Milburn

10/23: "He's Always Been Faithful" - Vocals by Katie Marshall, Piano by Judy Chadwick

10/30: "Have a Little Talk with Jesus" - Men's Ensemble

Thank you to those who brought wonderful Offertories to services during October. Contact me at [matthew@fclawrence.org](mailto:matthew@fclawrence.org) if you would like to perform an Offertory in the future. December is right around the corner, so notify of your interest in performing Christmas songs.

## Christmas 2016

I am in the final stages of planning our Advent, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day services. Email me at [matthew@fclawrence.org](mailto:matthew@fclawrence.org) if you would love to serve through Worship during Christmas 2016.

## MVP (Most Valuable Player) - Kiyun Lee

Along with being a gifted leader of Youth and Children, Pastor Kiyun is a wonderful musician. Being a talented keyboardist, his skills are put to good use in our Modern Services. Kiyun is in tune with the latest and greatest in Contemporary Christian music, which is an invaluable resource for our Worship Team.

Throughout the week, Kiyun's love for music can be seen at the offices of First Christian Church. Through spontaneous singing, breaks to sharpen his piano skills, and his willingness to share new songs with anyone willing to listen, it is evident that he loves music. That love is on display through Kiyun's participation in our 11 A.M. Modern Services at FCC.

*This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Psalms 118:24 ESV*

Matthew Mulnix,  
Modern Worship Leader

# YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Hello Church,

Exciting things are happening among our students at Youth! God is changing lives and I am so incredibly honored to be a part of God's movement among our students!

Currently we are in the middle of a series that portrays a beautiful depiction of the implications of the Kingdom of God. This series is a four-week series on the Victor Hugo novel, *Les Misérables*.

Other than the series that are really impacting the outlooks of our students, we have also gone on a Fall Retreat to bring our community closer. During Fall Retreat, we participated in Breakout Lawrence (a fantastic team-building business in downtown!), cleaning the day house for Family Promise, and playing Ultimate Frisbee and soccer in the park. It was a day full of fun and community!



God is doing wonderful things among the FCC students. It is my honor and privilege to be a part of those wonderful things that God is doing!



Kiyun Lee  
Pastor of Youth & Children

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

Hello Church,

We finished October with a bang! We had an incredibly successful event that involved around 600 people from the local community! We had people that enjoyed all the commodities of this event such as the bouncy house, the face-paint, and snacks such as popcorn and ice cream. Our Trunk or Treat attracted so many people and our hope is that we will be able to connect with those people who have participated in this event with us.

I would like to say a special thanks to all those who have helped create this event to be such a successful one. Without our trunk decorators, snacks servers, and staff who have given so much of their time and effort, Trunk or Treat would not have been as successful. So thank you all who have partnered with the Children's Ministry of FCC to hold such a great event that connected our church to our community.

I would also like to announce that I will be relieved of my children's ministry duties soon due to the gracious gift that was donated to us. I loved working with our children and although I am sad to be leaving this role, I am so incredibly excited about the person that would take it on. I am convinced that God will bring into the team someone who is qualified and competent to inspire our children's ministry to become even greater. God is doing wonderful things through FCC and we are in the midst of it!

The best is yet to come church.



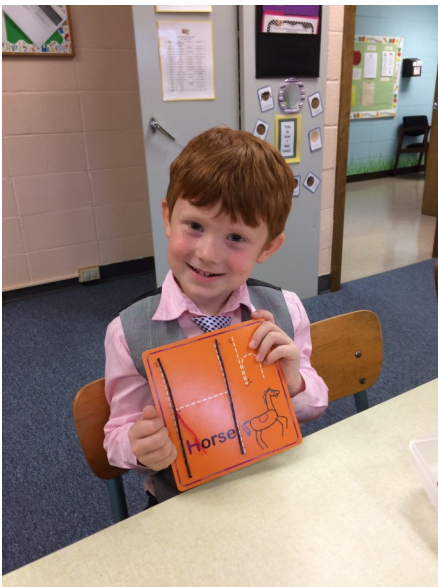
Kiyun Lee  
Pastor of Youth & Children

# THE GIVING TREE PRESCHOOL NEWS

Autumn leaves are falling down... These are just a few of the words one might hear being sung within The Giving Tree classrooms. We are truly enjoying the opportunity to learn about fall and all of the beauty God has created as we explore this colorful season. We have been busy learning how pumpkins grow and are harvested. After visiting Schaake's Pumpkin Patch, we investigated what is inside of a pumpkin. This hands-on approach makes learning real and fun!

We are especially looking forward to turning our focus toward what it means to give thanks and be thankful as we approach the Thanksgiving holiday. This gives us the opportunity to learn about friendships, family traditions and how God made each child special in his/her own way. We consider it a blessing to be able to share God's love through play, music, literature and Bible stories within our daily curriculum.

Thank you to those within the church family who donated to The Giving Tree Chair Drive! The chairs down in our classrooms have had MANY years of use and are in need of being replaced. It is truly amazing to stop and think how many children have used those chairs over the years. We have several current parents within our program, who most likely sat in these chairs when they attended The Giving Tree Preschool. We appreciate your kindness, prayers and continued support of our wonderful preschool!



Julie Hafenstine  
The Giving Tree Preschool Director  
[www.lawrencepreschool.com](http://www.lawrencepreschool.com)





# STEWARDSHIP

September, 2016

It is exciting to read the newsletter each month to see just what First Christian has been up to. We enjoy so many opportunities to touch the lives of the Lawrence community. It may be in the parking lot during our Trunk or Treat event, serving LINK, during a Pastor's class that has been offered to the community on Facebook, Sunday worship or through the Giving Tree. We have been given great opportunity to share the love of Christ. During our stewardship campaign, "Where My Heart Is" you can make your financial pledge to help the church continue its current ministries and develop new ones and to help the church carry out its responsibility of making disciples.

Below are the YTD income and expense totals for the Unified Budget through September 30, 2016. We ended the month with a net loss of \$2,555 leaving a net loss for the year of \$11,310. We should be at 75.00% of the budget at the end of September. Income was at 72.62% with expenses at 75.37%. The staff and Trustees continue to work hard to keep expenses down while continuing to operate meaningful and effective ministries. We are thankful for God's many blessings and we are so grateful to those who continue to support FCC so faithfully!

## Unified Budget YTD thru September 30, 2016

YTD Income	299,206.00
YTD Expense	310,516.00
YTD Net Income/(Loss)	(11,310.00)

### **You've got options when you're deciding how to give at First Christian: In person, by mail, online, on your phone, and more.**

**In Person** – Drop a check or cash in the Sunday offering plate, or deliver your gift to the church office.

**By Mail** – Mail a check to First Christian Church, 1000 Kentucky Street, Lawrence, Ks 66044.

**Online** – Visit our website at [www.fcclawrence.org](http://www.fcclawrence.org) or use our convenient app. Click the "Give" link in the upper right portion of the page and follow the instructions. You can give a one-time gift or set up a recurring gift. You have the option of giving by credit card, debit card, or ACH Withdrawal. You can also update your contact information and check your giving history.

**Cell Phone** – Text [fcclawrence](tel:77977) to 77977, this will take you directly to our PushPay page.

**Appreciated Stock** – Stocks and other securities are a welcome gift.

**Life Insurance** - Name First Christian Church as a beneficiary of your policy.

**Planned Gifts** – Give via retirement assets, bequests, trusts, etc. as part of your overall personal financial strategy.

Lisa Hoag  
Business Administrator

# SWANSON FAMILY UPDATE

Hi Everyone,

It is a cool, cloud-covered day in the mountains of Oaxaca, Mexico. It feels quite similar to the autumn weather you are experiencing, but without the vibrant orange and crimson colors we miss more each year.

As we reflect back on the completion of our fifth year in Mexico, we celebrate the distribution of New Testaments in 17 languages (and counting) since our arrival. The dedication ceremonies have been abundant in 2016. We have had the privilege of attending 3 (of about 6) dedications so far this year. The most recent dedication took place on September 11 in San Jose Ñumi, the local government headquarters representing 20 Mixtec-speaking communities.

*Hundreds of people attended the dedication, heard speeches, Bible readings and songs in Mixtec. There was unprecedented cooperation by three religious groups, which was unthinkable only a few years ago.*

*People gathered around the book tables to purchase complete “hybrid” Bibles (100% NT Mixtec; 30% OT Mixtec; 70% OT Spanish) and literacy materials.*

*Translation for the cover of the Mixtec reads, “Holy Paper. God’s Peace to All People”*

Indeed, we pray for peace to all people, which you and I know only comes through Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

However, living and working in Mexico comes with its sacrifices. It is hard to reflect back without thinking of some of our losses. Immediately upon leaving Illinois in 2011, we decreased our family size from a family of six to just four of us. It was hard saying good-bye to Paul and Megan who stayed in the U.S. during their college years. Rachel was with us in Mexico for the first 18 months, but she’s been completely out of the nest since 2013. Just like Paul and Megan, we have only been able to get together about once a year (or less often) since Rachel’s departure.

Our living parents (Ed’s father passed away in Spring of 2011) continue to age and we haven’t been able to spend much time with them. We don’t often connect with other members of our extended families. During our time in Mexico, we lost Ed’s brother due to cancer and our nephew suddenly due to an undetected genetic heart defect. Grieving from such a distance makes it seem surreal that they are really gone.

Maybe it’s the mournful looking day and the unusual pattern of cloud cover in Mitla for the past three days, but we are not looking forward to saying goodbye to Ryan this June. Yes, Ryan is a senior this year! And yes, we will start being empty-nesters very soon. As we look back over Ryan’s experience in Mexico, we see a childhood coming to an end. His early childhood was rich with activity: every sport, band, choir, church camp, swimming, you name it. At age 12, he was taken out of his culture, forced to learn Spanish and a completely different lifestyle. He started attending a highly academic mission school, met other missionary kids from other parts of the world and became what we call a “third culture kid.” He became part Mexican, part American and 100% missionary kid. He gave up sports, music, American activities and food. At first, he had only one friend, had trouble learning Spanish and clashed with some of his teachers. It was a difficult transition.

Speaking in hyperbole, Jesus said, *“If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple.”* (Lk 14:25) Who do we love more? Jesus wants us to follow Him and love Him more. To demonstrate our love to Him, He asks for obedience that often includes sacrifice...

# SWANSON FAMILY UPDATE

*"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship."* Romans 12:1

We are not heroes by any stretch of the imagination. We are not even always willing servants. Sometimes we feel duty-bound to serve others and remain on the mission field, but we do it with bad attitudes. "Doing missions" comes at a cost.

But like anything, when you make an investment, there is a day that it all seems worthwhile. There is the day when people rush to the book table to get a Bible in a language they understand. There is the day when you see how the challenges placed before your children have grown character, a dependence on God and a true personal faith. There is the day when prayers are answered and you realize your child loves his life in Mexico, has a great group of friends and loves tacos, excursions to the beach and riding zip lines across mountain valleys.

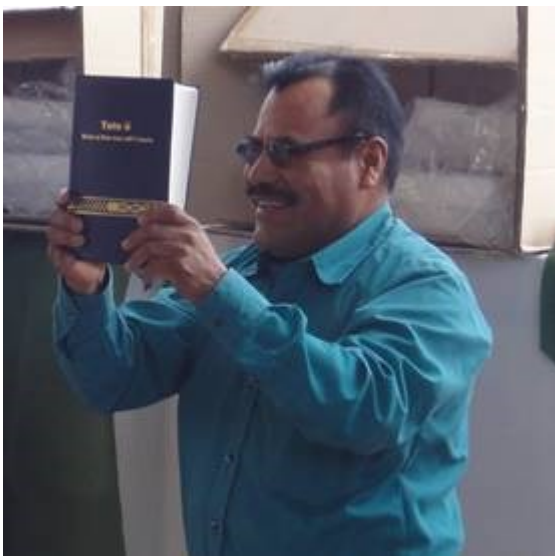
There are the joys of an expanded sense of family as we add fellow believers into our daily lives, both Mexicans and our missionary colleagues. And there are those opportunities to worship God together with diverse people knowing that one day we will stand together with...

*"...a great multitude...from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb..."* Rev. 7:9

On that particular day, we will know, it was worth it!

Melissa – for Ed and Ryan

P.S. Just as I completed writing this, I got a call from Ryan. He had a bike accident in the parking lot at school. The inside of his knee caught on the metal pedal and peeled back a big swatch of skin. Needless to say, he needed stitches. He is on the mend now and just needs to be careful not to bend his knee while the stitches heal. Please pray against infection, which is something that could easily creep in considering our context here.



# FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH



1000 Kentucky Street • Lawrence KS 66044  
(785) 843-0679 • [office@fcclawrence.org](mailto:office@fcclawrence.org)  
Traditional Worship 9 AM • Modern Worship 11 AM

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

## Get Connected

### Social Media

- [Facebook.com/firstchristianlawrence](https://www.facebook.com/firstchristianlawrence)
- [Fcclawrence.org](http://Fcclawrence.org)
- [Twitter @fcclawrenceks](https://twitter.com/fcclawrenceks)
- [Instagram @fcclawrenceks](https://www.instagram.com/fcclawrenceks)
- [Davidpendergrass.com](http://Davidpendergrass.com)

### Join the Church

You are always invited to become a member of FCC! New members are received at the end of a worship service. If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact the church office: (785) 843-0679 or [office@fcclawrence.org](mailto:office@fcclawrence.org).

### Newsletter

If you would like to change the method you receive or unsubscribe from the FCC newsletter, please contact the Main Office: (785) 843-0679 or [office@fcclawrence.org](mailto:office@fcclawrence.org).

Want encouragement texted to you? Text **First Christian** to number 69922

Want to donate via text? Text **fcclawrence** to number 77977

### STAFF

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