



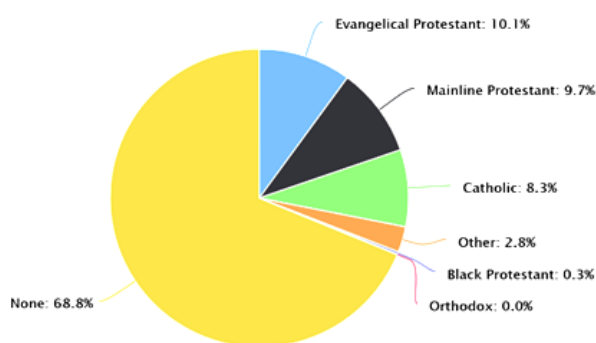
Hello Church Family!

When Moses was exhorting his fellow Hebrews to be loyal to God alone, Moses reminded them of what God had done in rescuing them from slavery: “He is the one you should praise; he is your God, the one who has done these great and awesome things for you that you have seen” (Deut. 10:21 NET). Praise Jesus! We serve a God who has done awesome things for our ancestors and for us today! I’m so excited for what God is doing now, in the new chapter of the life of First Christian Church. But first, let’s look at a huge problem...

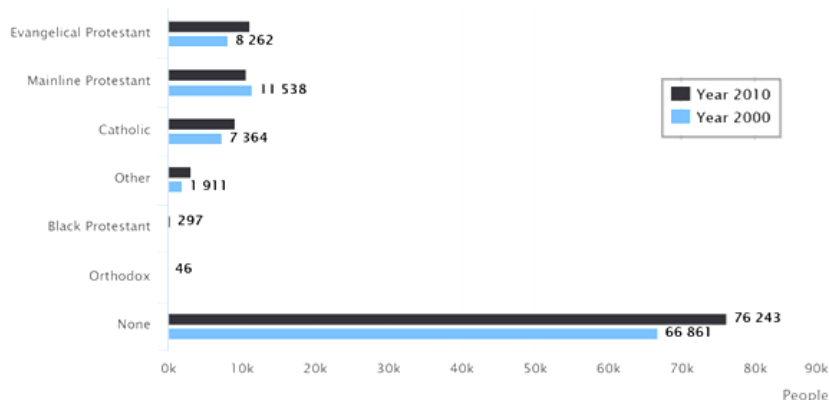
## The Problem

The 2010 census showed that there were just under 100,000 people living in Lawrence, Kansas. The census showed a HUGE problem: *the vast majority of people living in Lawrence are not Christians*. Worse still, the percentage of non-believers *increased* in the first decade of this century. Well, who cares? Why is this a problem? This means that a *vast majority*—ca. 75%—of our neighbors and friends are not saved from the consequences of their sin (read e.g., John 3:36; Rom. 2:5-8; 3:9-12, 23; Col. 3:5-6; 1 Thess. 5:9-10).

Religions Adherents In 2010



Year 2000 To 2010 Change



## The Solution

Jesus established His church on the declaration that He is God’s Anointed (Matt. 16:18) and that He alone is the source of salvation (Jn 14:6). Since the Church is His Body (1 Cor. 12), and since He has all authority over us all (Matt. 28:18), we absolutely must be faithful and obedient to our Lord.

Right before Jesus ascended into the heavenly realm, He commanded His disciples to do one main thing: “make disciples of all nations” (Matt. 28:19-20). This means that it is the moral and theological duty of every single church to obey our Lord’s commandment: we simply *must do everything we can to “make disciples of all nations.”* Thankfully, Jesus told us precisely how to make disciples in two progressive steps: (1) baptizing new converts in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matt 28:19), and (2) teaching people to obey everything that Jesus commanded (Matt. 28:20). Let’s unpack this a little bit:

A “**disciple**” is an apprentice, an adherent, one who *adopts the values and lifestyle of a teacher*. A disciple is one who has wholeheartedly submitted every single desire, behavior, and choice to what Jesus commanded (e.g., Mark 8:34-35, 38; Matt. 7:21-23; Luke 14:26-27, 33) because the person has “died with Christ” (e.g., Rom. 6:4, 8; 2 Cor. 5:15; Gal. 2:20; Col. 2:20).

### STEP ONE: “Baptizing in the name of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit”:

We see in the New Testament that non-Christians confessed and repented of their sins, renounced their former lives, and committed to living like Jesus. This is typically described as a “turning from” something to God, and was sealed with baptism (read e.g., Acts 2:38; 3:19; 9:35; 11:21; 14:15; 15:19; 26:18-20; Rom 6:1-6; 1 Thess. 1:9 10; 1 Pet. 2:25; 3:21). *We measure our success of this Step by counting the number of conversion baptisms that occur.*

### STEP TWO: “Teaching people to obey everything Jesus commanded”:

Once baptized, these baby Christians increased or grew in their capacity to think and live like Jesus by practicing certain Christian habits. Within the Christian communities, they sought moral accountability and encouragement, and dedicated themselves to the “apostle’s teachings,” interpreting Scripture, prayers, worship, and service (read e.g., 1 Cor. 3:6-7; 2 Cor. 10:15; Eph. 1:17; 2:21; 4:15-16; Col. 1:6, 10; 2:19; 1 Pet. 2:2; 2 Pet. 1:2; 3:18). *We measure our success of this Step by counting the number of participants in the various ministries (and individual measurement can be done by completing the Discipleship Assessment).*

*The solution to the problem Lawrence faces is to make disciples of Jesus.* Therefore, according to our updated Constitution and By-Laws, we proudly proclaim that the Purpose (or Mission) of First Christian is **“To make disciples of Jesus.”**

## The phenomenal effect of focusing on making disciples

Over 4,000 churches disband each year. Yes, each year. Did you know that there is one chief factor in common with every church that closes? *They became chiefly focused inwardly—on themselves.* One of the leading church consultants in America today is Thom Rainer, who has studied and consulted at thousands of churches (e.g., read his book, *Autopsy of a Deceased Church*). Rainer states some very common symptoms of being chiefly focused inwardly—on themselves:

- “There are very few attempts to minister to those in the community. Church business meetings become arguments over preferences and desires.
- Numbers of members in the congregation are openly critical of the pastor, other church staff, and lay leaders in the church.
- Any change necessary to become a Great Commission church is met with anger and resistance.
- The past becomes the hero.
- Culture is seen as the enemy instead of an opportunity for believers to become salt and light.
- Pastors and other leaders in the church become discouraged and withdraw from effective leadership.
- If the churches are a part of a denomination or similar affiliation, meetings of those denominations mirror the churches in lost focus and divisiveness.”

Be on the lookout for these symptoms! These are early warning signals of a serious disease in the church.

On the other hand, one chief factor is evident in churches that are thriving: *They are chiefly focused on making disciples* (e.g., see Rainer’s book, *Surprising Insights from the Unchurched*). Yes, caring for our own “sheep” is very important. It’s just that if we spend more energy inwardly, versus outwardly, we are not only being disobedient to Jesus, but it means our church is headed for a dead end. Data demonstrates that churches focused on making disciples are bearing much fruit: increasing in baptisms and in discipleship growth.

Putting it on paper isn’t enough. For First Christian to be successful, it is imperative that we unite as one Body, committed to the chief purpose of making disciples. This is why Paul urged the Christians in Corinth: “I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to agree together, to end your divisions, and to be united by the same mind and purpose” (1 Cor. 1:10 NET). As we saw above, the “harvest is plentiful” (Matt 9:37) for Kingdom work in Lawrence! And when we commit to this purpose, He will equip and strengthen us!

When Jesus preached in His earthly ministry, there were people who strongly opposed what He said, what He did, and the way He did it. Jesus told them that “no one pours new wine into old wineskins; otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the skins will be destroyed. Instead new wine is poured into new wineskins” (Mk. 2:22 NET). The point is: for the Kingdom of God to establish its rule in our lives (and Church), we need to be prepared for God to act in new ways. God doesn’t want to damage us. He wants to work through us!



(wine-skin)

### But, how do we do it?

Building upon the strategy that First Christian has been employing, and upon the principles set forth in the New Testament, First Christian will make disciples of Jesus by focusing on three strategic principles: **Gather, Grow, Go**. We **Gather** to worship and care for our community; we **Grow** to be like Jesus; we **Go** to share the gospel and serve the world.



We **Gather** to  
worship and care  
for our communi-



We **Grow** to be  
like Jesus.



We **Go** to share  
the gospel and  
serve the world.

This means that every activity FCC has will be a manifestation of at least one of these strategic principles. You’ll see these three logos much more often in newsletters and bulletins. They remind us that we are being deliberate. They remind us that we are doing our best to make disciples.

In each newsletter, you’ll learn more about how each ministry is manifesting these strategic principles. Each ministry area is using demographic studies to inform how they make disciples because it is ineffective to think “one-size-fits-all.” We must pay close attention to the particular needs of each generation in order to make disciples successfully. I really hope and pray that you will consider how you might join a ministry and get involved!

There is a huge problem in Lawrence, yes. There is an even larger *solution* to that problem. We have the message, the tools, and the equipping Spirit of God to fulfill our purpose! We can do it! God is on the move in Lawrence! Where is your heart? How can you rise up to the great need that exists? How can you use your skills and Spirit-given gifts to make disciples here?

“And I pray this, that your love may abound even more and more in knowledge and every kind of insight so that you can decide what is best, and thus be sincere and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ to the glory and praise of God” (Phil. 1:9-11 NET).

*David*

David W. Pendergrass, Ph.D.  
Senior Pastor

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS



Just as First Christian Church has purposed to make disciples using the GATHER, GROW, GO strategy, FCC Kids (our ministry to children and their families) also has set in place strategies to carry out the purpose of FCC. As we consider how to best make disciples in FCC Kids, it is important that we consider the generational traits, developmental levels, learning styles/preferences, and desires of the age groups that we serve. The children in FCC Kids are part of Generation Z (or Gen Z). Here are some characteristics of Gen Z:

Technology is part of everyday life, in their education, their entertainment, and their communication with others. Visual cues are very important since Gen Z uses technology in many forms on an everyday basis. They have quick access to information and search for answers when they wonder *why*, require options, and can access entertainment at their fingertips. Since technology is so readily available, and social cues are important, their preferences and trends change quickly, often based on what is socially acceptable. The Gen Z attention span is fewer than ten minutes long.

To *make disciples* of Gen Z, it is important that we use knowledge of their characteristics to facilitate productive, engaging Sunday morning programming, activities, and events. Educating this generation no longer allows a cookie cutter process. Instead, it requires that we make FCC Kids a place that is visually stimulating and fun.

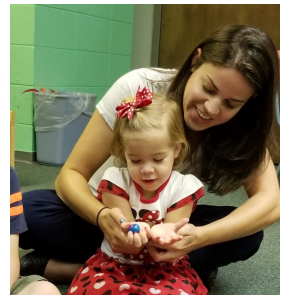


When we GATHER in FCC Kids, it is imperative that we do our best to let the children (and families) know that they are loved and safe. In a safe, secure, and welcoming environment, we teach Bible skills (books of the Bible, finding Bible verses, etc.) and Bible stories and include activities to make the stories come alive for children. In order to provide choices, we offer learning centers for preschool children and other choices (where to sit, activities, etc.) for elementary children. Keeping in mind the need for visual cues and entertainment, we show pictures,

videos, and objects related to the Bible stories, whenever possible. Since it is no longer sufficient for children to simply sit and listen to a Bible story, we actively engage children in Bible story time by having them act out stories, asking questions, and more.

In order to GROW, our children must be enticed to learn. We must emphasize why what we're learning matters to them and give them practical ways to act out their faith at home and at school. We must put Bibles in their hands and offer them the chance to access the Bible and Bible tools digitally (through apps on their phones or tablets). Our communication with their families is no longer just through hard copies (newsletters, flyers) but is sent home digitally in various styles (email, social media, texts). In addition, we provide parents with digital tools to teach their children how to become disciples of Jesus (Practice with Parents, websites, Bible apps, etc.).

To help FCC Kids GO, we must help them understand why people need Jesus and to identify with those who may not know Jesus. We must provide opportunities for questions and offer explanations for their questions. We must give them practical tools to bring Jesus up in conversation and create appealing events for the children to invite their friends to church. We must also provide tools for parents to help their children GO and make disciples by providing digital resources, opportunities, and ideas. To help FCC Kids GO into the surrounding community, we must also have a visible social media presence, promoting upcoming events and telling the community what FCC Kids has to offer.



As Gen Z changes, FCC Kids will keep the same purpose: to make disciples, yet may adjust the strategies within GATHER, GROW, GO. We will stay current with Gen Z in order to effectively make disciples within this generation and their parents' generation.

**To God be the glory.**



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CONTINUED

It can be enlightening to listen to children as they play. They learn from others, perfect skills, and reenact prior learning during play. Playtime can also provide opportunities for parents, grandparents, and teachers to take a peek into the mind of a child.

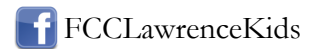
In FCC Kids, we include lots of playtime. We include this before the Bible story to assess children's prior knowledge and after the lesson, to give children the chance to apply their new learning.

It is rewarding to hear a child make a connection between the Bible story and something in real life, seen through play. In the past few weeks, I have watched children reenact Bible stories using toys, heard them sing songs about Jesus as they play, and helped children make connections between their playtime and Bible topics that we have covered.

As *you* interact with children, you can help guide them through play. When they play, mention Bible topics or Bible stories that remind *you* of what they're playing. Use these *teachable moments* to talk about Bible topics. In this way, you will help teach children that *faith* and *play* are connected just as *faith* and *real life* are connected.

It takes practice to make faith connections through play, but there are resources to help you. For more information, and to glean ideas about learning and teaching about discipleship through play, visit Elaine Pendergrass's blog (Teaching Kids About God) at [elainependergrass.com](http://elainependergrass.com).

**Elaine W. Pendergrass (Pastor to Children)**  
[elaine@fcclawrence.org](mailto:elaine@fcclawrence.org)



## COLLEGE NEWS



FCC College exists to make disciples of Jesus. FCC College is committed to teaching disciples to obey everything that Jesus commanded (Matt. 28:19), expressed by **GATHER, GROW, GO**. We **GATHER** to worship and care for our community; we **GROW** to be like Jesus; we **GO** to share the gospel and serve the world. Either or both of the following metrics measure success: (1) baptisms showing conversion (Matt. 28:20) and (2) participation in the various ministries.

FCC College is a ministry specifically designed to satisfy the distinctive needs of college-aged young adults. We accomplish this objective, by a diversity of endeavors, to help college age students cultivate a relationship with Christ in a loving community as they navigate the challenges and responsibilities of this particular juncture of their life-journey.

FCC College intentionally strives to **GATHER, GROW, and GO** in all our ministry functions. We **GATHER** for corporate worship, small groups, and other fellowships. We **GROW** together for spiritual formation via Bible studies, Christian disciplines, and personal mentorship. We **GO** to serve within the college campus, out into the local community, and afar out into the world to serve the practical and spiritual needs of others in urgent need.

FCC College has the essential desire to foster intimate relationships and be available beyond the corporate church capacity. For those who attend college, these years are quite integral in guiding your destination towards your future convictions, vocation, and life. Connect with Paul Porter to learn more.

**Paul Porter (Pastor to Youth and College)**  
[paul@fcclawrence.org](mailto:paul@fcclawrence.org)

# YOUTH NEWS



FCC YTH (Grades 6-12) exists to make disciples of Jesus. FCC YTH is committed to teaching disciples to obey everything that Jesus commanded (Matt. 28:19), expressed by GATHER, GROW, GO. We GATHER to worship and care for our community; we GROW to be like Jesus; we GO to share the gospel and serve the world. Either or both of the following metrics measure success: (1) baptisms showing conversion (Matt. 28:20) and (2) participation in the various ministries.

Within the teenage worldview, there are critical questions of self-soul-searching, and how teenagers answer those questions will leave a distinctive mark on their lives as they transition into adulthood. These Five Questions are: 1) Who Am I? (Identity), 2) What am I supposed to do? (Function), 3) When do I know? (Conviction), 4) Where is my life headed? (Security), 5) Why do my beliefs matter? (Purpose).

In a world with a buffet of conflicting and competing beliefs, FCC YTH strives to answer these critical questions, via various mediums and methods customized to our youth students' needs, in a discerning manner from the Christian perspective in weekly gatherings, personal discipleship, and special events.

FCC YTH intentionally strives to GATHER, GROW, and GO in all our ministry functions via the following:

## **GATHER:**

- Wednesday Gatherings from 6:00-8:00 PM
- Sunday Youth D-Group from 10:00-11:00 AM
- Sunday Worship (Traditional 9 AM & Modern 11 AM)
- Fundraising Events
- Special Events (Retreats, Hangouts, Etc.)

## **GROW:**

- We pray for and with our students, while encouraging them to pray in their daily lives.
- We teach and preach lessons that are relevant to youth students using the Bible as our source and authority for Christian doctrine, faith, and practice.
- We divide into Growth Groups when applicable for more intimate mentorship.
- We educate and implement various spiritual disciplines like praising through music, Scripture memorization, and devotional habits within our gatherings.
- We offer special discipleship opportunities like one-on-one mentorship and Christian camps, conferences, etc. for those who desire to dig deeper in their faith.

## **GO:**

- We motivate our students to go out into their schools to share the gospel and invite friends to church.
- We go out into the local community to serve the practical and spiritual needs of our fellow neighbors.
- We put feet to our faith by going beyond our local community on organized mission trips in order to proclaim the gospel and reach out to those in desperate need.

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

[paul@fccclawrence.org](mailto:paul@fccclawrence.org)



@fcc\_yth



[fbl.me/fccyth](https://fbl.me/fccyth)

# WORSHIP MINISTRY NEWS



On Sunday mornings, when we GATHER together to worship God. We are richly blessed with an opportunity to stop and reflect on the One who made us. Corporate worship can be the bridge to the other ministries of FCC, with the common goal of gathering, growing, and going. Through our worship services, we honor our Father, adore our Savior, and connect through the Spirit. When we gather, we come with open hearts to grow and go.

Through music, singing, prayer, communion, giving, scripture, and biblical teaching, we aim to GROW as the body of Christ. We encourage one another to continue living a Christ centered life through the elements in our order of service. Staff, volunteers, and congregants come to serve the Lord with a humble heart. We enter our sanctuary with the expectation that the Holy Spirit will move in big ways. If you feel growth on a Sunday morning, let that be the push to continue growing throughout the week. Through the other ministries of First Christian, you can get plugged in to continual spiritual nourishment, until we gather again on Sundays.

Through worship, we want to be equipped to GO and make more Disciples in Lawrence, and in the world. In turn, these growing followers of Jesus will gather with us to worship God. Songs we sing can touch our hearts, and move us to share them with others. There might be a person in your life that needs to hear the words you sang, such as “I am living by faith, nothing is impossible”, or “Standing on the promises of God my Savior”. FCC will utilize elements of worship to encourage and equip you to share your faith with others. We’ll go to those who need to hear about the joy, hope, peace, and love found in a personal relationship with Jesus.

**Matthew Mulnix and Greg Boyle (Modern/Traditional Worship Leaders)**

[matthew@fcclawrence.org](mailto:matthew@fcclawrence.org)/[greg@fcclawrence.org](mailto:greg@fcclawrence.org)

## THE GIVING TREE PRESCHOOL



The Giving Tree teachers and families enjoyed our first annual Chris Cakes Pancake Fundraiser at the end of October. All proceeds raised benefited our scholarship fund. Thank you to the FCC church families who donated or attended this event. The scholarship fund allows us to provide partial scholarships to families in need of financial assistance. Your support and prayers are truly appreciated.



We continue to learn about the fall season and we look forward to sharing with our preschoolers what it means to give thanks and to be thankful. The Thanksgiving season provides ample opportunities to reflect on what is truly important to each one of us. The word of God reminds us that we are all wonderfully made and special/unique in our own way.



Our daily curriculum allows us to share God’s love through music, small group activities, exploration of our world through play, classic literature as well as Bible stories. As a teacher, it is rewarding when a child learns new skills, but it is a blessing to teach children to be disciples of Jesus and to be thankful for all He provides to us. I am thankful our dear Lord continues to bless our wonderful Giving Tree Preschool.

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

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

# STEWARDSHIP

Below are the YTD income and expense totals for the Unified Budget through September 30, 2017. We ended the month with net income of \$3,018 for a total net income for the year of \$15,055. We should be at 75.00% of the budget at the end of September. Income was at 73.28% with expenses at 70.55%. 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 Through September, 2017

YTD Income	\$	358,294.00
YTD Expenses	\$	343,239.00
YTD Net Income/(Loss)	\$	15,055.00

You have a big role to play in FCC's new and exciting strategy, **Gather, Grow, Go!** Your financial gifts, your time and your talents are so important to the success of the ministries of First Christian.

Your financial gifts help provide and maintain a beautiful place to **Gather**, a place to worship and to learn more about our loving father! We have multiple opportunities to **Grow** through DGroups, Pastor's Class, Youth Group, Children's Ministry, the Giving Tree Preschool, CWF and various support groups. Through your giving we are able to **Go** by supporting missionaries who go out into the world to teach and to share their love for Jesus. Your time, talent and financial resources provide an awesome opportunity to serve the homeless and feed those who are hungry through the LINK kitchen. We are planning events to **Go** out into the community, to share God's love and to offer invitations to those in the Lawrence community to become part of the FCC family.

Our 2018 stewardship commitment is now underway and the Trustees have begun work on the 2018 budget. Pledge cards are now available. We ask that you prayerfully consider your financial support for 2018. The pledge is an important tool in the development of the budget. It helps the Trustees have an idea of what income we can expect for the coming year. Please remember the individual pledges are kept confidential and only the total is given to the Trustees. As we look to the new year, we are excited to see what God has in store for First Christian as with **Gather, Grow, Go**, in our mission to make disciples!

### *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 St, Lawrence, KS 66044  
FCC Endowment Fund - Contact Lisa Hoag*

## PERSPECTIVES CLASS

# MADE FOR MORE

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

Come experience 15 powerful lessons that have equipped thousands of every day believers with greater vision, hope, and passion. In Perspectives, scripture, history, culture, and strategy converge to reveal the unfolding of God's redemptive purposes. He is on a mission to bless the peoples of the earth, and you're invited to join him.

**Sundays 4-7pm | January 14th - April 29th | First Christian Church**

**Cost:** \$250 - discounts available, college credit offered First night is **free** - come check it out!

For more information or to register, go to: [Perspectives.org/LawrenceKS\\_S18](http://Perspectives.org/LawrenceKS_S18)

Questions? Please email, call, or text: [PerspectivesLawrence@gmail.com](mailto:PerspectivesLawrence@gmail.com) | 480-666-2114

**Live with passion. Run with purpose.**





# FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

1000 Kentucky Street • Lawrence KS 66044

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



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

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

David Pendergrass, Ph.D., Senior Pastor	<a href="mailto:david@fcclawrence.org">david@fcclawrence.org</a>
Elaine Pendergrass, Pastor to Children	<a href="mailto:elaine@fcclawrence.org">elaine@fcclawrence.org</a>
Greg Boyle, Traditional Worship	<a href="mailto:greg@fcclawrence.org">greg@fcclawrence.org</a>
Julie Hafenstine, Director of Giving Tree	<a href="mailto:julie@fcclawrence.org">julie@fcclawrence.org</a>
Lisa Hoag, Business Administrator	<a href="mailto:lisa@fcclawrence.org">lisa@fcclawrence.org</a>
Maddie Markley, Office Coordinator	<a href="mailto:office@fcclawrence.org">office@fcclawrence.org</a>
Matthew Mulnix, Modern Worship	<a href="mailto:matthew@fcclawrence.org">matthew@fcclawrence.org</a>
Paul Porter, Pastor to Youth and College	<a href="mailto:paul@fcclawrence.org">paul@fcclawrence.org</a>
Church Elders	<a href="mailto:elders@fcclawrence.org">elders@fcclawrence.org</a>

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



# PUT ME ON THE REFRIGERATOR!

November 4<sup>th</sup> | 9am | The Big Biscuit

## Pancakes with the Pastor



## Thanksgiving Dinner

November 12<sup>th</sup> | 6pm | Fellowship Hall



November 12<sup>th</sup> | 5:30pm | Fellowship Hall

## ANNUAL MEETING



## SENIOR'S MINISTRY



JOY (Just Older Youth)  
Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> | 11am | Perkins  
jwilsonbonner@gmail.com

## NEW MEMBERS CLASS

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR CHURCH

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

Sunday | Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>  
10:15am | Fellowship Hall.  
Come to learn more about FCC.

## L.I.N.K

Lawrence Interdenominational  
Nutritional Kitchen

FCC Serves L.I.N.K.  
Sunday | Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> | 12:30pm  
Sign up at the Welcome Desk.

## FAMILY PROMISE



Family Promise  
Dec. 10-17 | First Christian Church  
dennis.hayward@gmail.com

SERMON SERIES IN DECEMBER

IS THERE HOPE?  
IS LOVE REAL?



WHAT IS JOY?  
CAN I FIND PEACE?

Advent is Coming!  
Sundays in December  
david@fcclawrence.org

## Family Advent Nights

Wednesdays | December 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, & 20<sup>th</sup> | 6-7:30pm



Family Advent Nights  
Wednesdays in December  
elaine@fcclawrence.org



# COMMUNITY AT FCC LAWRENCE

