

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

LAWRENCE, KANSAS

Hello Church Family!

I am so excited about all the things God is doing at First Christian! We have more new converts, more discipleship growth, numerous new guests, new members, new Growth Groups, and so much more! Jesus is still changing lives!



With so many baptisms in the last few months, I've been thinking of the nature of faith and what it takes to have it and keep it. "Faith" (Greek, *πίστις*) is the word Bible translators use for a term that chiefly means, "to have complete confidence or trust in." What faith most certainly does not mean in the Bible is, "to believe something for which there is no evidence." That is a "blind" faith or a "leap of faith." Blind faith is discouraged in the Bible and throughout the history of Christianity. Blind faith breeds insecurity and doubt because there's no way to be sure that we're trusting in something or someone that should be trusted.



Instead, we are called to have faith in, or trust, God because He has demonstrated Himself trustworthy (e.g., Hosea 13:4; Psalm 116:10; Mark 4:40). The author of Hebrews says it well: "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for, being convinced of what we do not see." (Heb. 11:1 NET) The author meant that we are sure of the hope of what is to come in the World-to-Come. That's why we don't "see" it right now. We haven't experienced it yet. Yet, we can be "sure of what we hope for" because of what we know to be true in Jesus. Jesus makes us secure. The resurrection means that He can be trusted with our future. *A firm, true, healthy Christian faith is based on solid evidence which warrants your trust.*

The problem is, our emotions can really take a toll on us some times. This is especially true, in my experience, for new converts. Difficulties and doubts seem to hit us pretty hard in our nascent faith. This is precisely why faith in this sense—trusting God based on what we know—*must be practiced, exercised, and rehearsed*. Our moods can beat us if we don't constantly remind ourselves of what we believe.

This is one of the reasons going over the basics of your faith is so important. It's why having regular, personal devotionals, prayer, worship, accountability, service, and communion is crucial. We must constantly train ourselves to re-focus on the Kingdom in a world that constantly competes for our attention and loyalty. And if we're not careful, our faith will be shaken, and perhaps abandoned, because of our changing moods. C.S. Lewis says it perfectly:

"Now faith,...is the art of holding on to things your reason has once accepted, in spite of your changing moods. ...[This] is why Faith is such a necessary virtue: unless you teach your moods 'where they get off,' you can never be either a sound Christian or even a sound atheist, but just a creature dithering to and fro, with its beliefs really dependent on the weather and the state of its digestion. Consequently one must train the habit of Faith." (*Mere Christianity* [Touchstone Books, 1980], 125.)

Our stress-inducing bills; our attention-demanding children; our anxiety-ridden deadlines at work; our painful wounds from the past; our critics and those who discourage us: all of these can make us think that our faith isn't real after all. We stop feeling like God is near and then start thinking that perhaps it's all make-believe.

Do you "train the habit of [your] faith"? Or, do you think being a disciple of Jesus is tantamount to "going to church"? Or, are your changing moods affecting the way you think about Jesus and Christianity? *Stay consistent in your Christian disciplines. Don't give up. Keep reading Scripture; keep praying; keep worshipping; keep serving.* It'll help you sustain your faith in the midst of changing moods.

For the Kingdom,

Senior Pastor

P.S. Be sure to download the church's app for free! Search for "First Christian Lawrence" where you download apps and download it today!

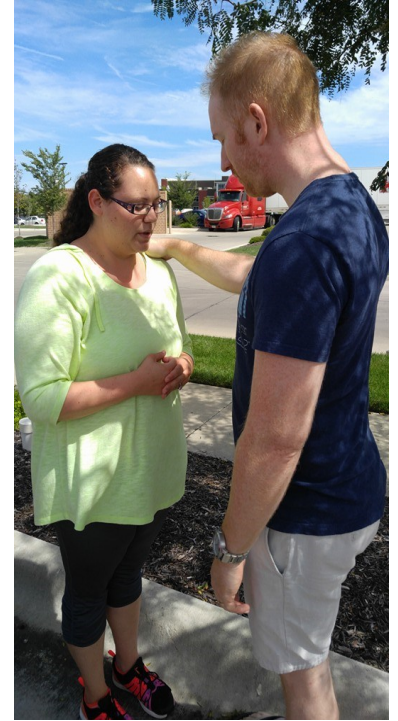
CHURCH WIDE NEWS

Baptism

Jesus is still changing lives! Chelsea Wenger had many things in her past that she regretted. She had habits in her life that she wanted to stop. After several months of God working her life, she finally submitted to the King! She confessed and repented of her sins and put her trust in the risen Jesus on September 9, 2016, and was baptized the following Sunday. God has been doing some wonderful new things in the life of Chelsea, her also-newly-baptized husband, William, and her family. It is so exciting to see the transformation that is taking place in their lives! Let her know how supportive FCC is of her “new birth” (1 Pet. 1:3) into an “unshakable kingdom” (Heb. 12:28)!



Do you remember your baptismal commitment? Are you still committed to keeping your “old self” in the dead water (Rom 6:4), and walking in love and holiness since you “have been raised with Christ” (Col. 3:1)? If not, confess that to God. Recommit yourself to the new life that God desires of us all.



- Did you know that Paxton retires at the end of this year? He will be honored with a presentation at the Regional Assembly, November 11-12. The regional board has created the Jones fun, which will support our camp, the Disciples Center at Tawakoni. In order to keep Paxton from learning of this plan prematurely, please send contributions to the South Central District office rather than the Topeka office. Make checks out to South Central District office rather than the Topeka office. Mail checks to 8492 SW Tawakoni RD, Augusta KS, 67010-8111 with Paxton in the memo line. Last, **help us keep this secret as long as possible.**
- 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.
- Do you have an interest in joining the church? 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. If you have any questions about joining the church, email office@fclawrence.org or call the church office (843-0679) and someone will be happy to talk with you.
- Did you know that it's even easier to donate to the church? We are excited to announce that we have partnered with Pushpay for our online giving options. Go to Fclawrence.org and click the GIVE link in the upper right portion of the page, or text fclawrence to number 77977. It is easy to use and a wonderful way to keep up to date. Giving tends to go down during the summer, so this is a way to give consistently. You can continue to give during service or via mail.



WORSHIP MINISTRY NEWS

September has been a great month for Worship at FCC. We were able to meet a lot of new faces and strengthen relationships with old ones. I'm looking forward to an amazing Fall season. We're introducing new songs, welcoming new team members, and setting goals for excellence in Worship.

September Offertories

9/4: "Great is Thy Faithfulness" - Piano by Judy Chadwick

9/11: "God Bless the U.S.A." - Saxophone by Matthew Mulnix, Piano Accompaniment by Judy Chadwick

9/18: "Keep Making Me" - Vocals and Guitar by Susan Dickson

9/25: "Sonia's Song: One More Night" - Composed and Sung by Jill Abel, Accompanied by Hyacinth Self on Guitar



Thank you to those who brought wonderful Offertories during September. Contact me at matthew@fcclawrence.org, or Judy Chadwick at dennis.chadwick@gmail.com if you would like to perform an Offertory in the future.

Christmas 2016

The Worship Advisory Team met on Sunday, September 25th to discuss Advent, Christmas Eve, and Christmas services at FCC. We were excited to brainstorm songs, scriptures, and elements for these services. Look out for calls and emails from myself and other members of the Worship Advisory Team regarding the Christmas season. We would love to have you serve through music, reading, or other gifts and abilities. Email me at matthew@fcclawrence.org if you would love to serve during Christmas 2016.

MVP (Most Valuable Player) - Hyacinth Self

Hyacinth plays the 12 string guitar like a pro, owns the kindest heart, and holds the strongest passion for seeing lives changed through Worship. I immensely enjoy serving alongside her at our 11 A.M. Modern services and hope to continue our path of excellence in musicianship.

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

We're having a hymn sing! Sunday, October 30th at 8:20am (before first service). We'll meet in Fellowship Hall and sing our favorite hymns. Bring ideas and call out numbers and titles of your favorites!

Calling all men singers! We're putting together a men's ensemble to sing for offertory during first service on October 30. If you're interested in singing, please contact Judy Chadwick (dennis.chadwick@gmail.com or 749-3396). We'll rehearse on Thursdays Oct 20th and Oct 27th at 7:30pm in the Sanctuary. That's it! Let's get together and do this!

Max Mayse



YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

The new school year is now in full stride. In the past month, we've transitioned well into the new school year. As the first month of the school year went by, YTH also got into a rhythm of the new school year. In the past month, the students learned about the Kingdom. As we went on in The Kingdom series, we learned that Jesus is the only one that can give life that is abundant and ultimately fulfilling. As we are wrapping up, "The Kingdom," we will move onto a series on *Les Miserables*: a novel about the people of France during the 19th Century. We are hoping that through this series, the students will see a more tangible example of the Kingdom. We are really excited for the next month coming up because we believe that God is going to change the hearts and the perspective of many of our students!



We are also going to have our very first Fall Retreat. We will have our Fall Retreat on the Friday, October 21st. We will work with Family Promise through hanging out in South Park and working together to break out of a room at Breakout Lawrence. We hope to really connect and build our community. If you know of any students who would like to be involved with Fall Retreat, please email kiyun@fcclawrence.org. The cost is only \$20, and it will cover lunch and Breakout Lawrence. It is going to be incredibly fun, and I am beyond excited about it!

Kiyun Lee
Pastor of Youth & Children

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS



FCC Kids are have had a wonderful September! We held two events that were incredibly fun! There was the Movie Night where we got to watch *Inside Out* and discuss God's purpose for our emotions.

We also partnered with the Giving Tree Preschool to hold our annual Ice-cream Social. This event especially was amazing! Tons of people showed up and enjoyed themselves by eating ice cream and socializing together. There was a bounce house and a face painting table for the kids and the kids really loved it! We hope that this event will bring more people into our family here at FCC!



TRUNK OR TREAT

Candy
Bouncy house
face-painting
snacks
music
SAFE fun!

Oct. 23 from 4:00-6:30pm in the parking lot
EVERYONE invited!

We will have a HUGE event come October! On October 23rd, we will be having our annual Trunk or Treat! This event will be amazing and you DO NOT want to miss it! This event is open to all the people within our church and also to the local Lawrence community. There will be bounce house and cars full of decorated trunks! In order for us to pull this off, we will need your help! We need volunteers who would like to decorate their trunks for this event! We need volunteers who would like to monitor the bounce house! If you would like to help out with this amazing event, please email kiyun@fcclawrence.org. We are incredibly excited for this event as we hope to bring in a lot of families that are not committed to a local church!



Other than the fun events that are happening at FCC Kids, we have just wrapped up our series about the faithfulness of God's love for us! We are now moving onto a series that helps us to learn God's characteristics that are portrayed in different animals. We are looking forward to learning about how God wants to form our lives and characters through this series!



Kiyun Lee
Pastor of Youth & Children

THE GIVING TREE PRESCHOOL NEWS

Ice-cream sundaes, face painting, an inflatable bounce house and many smiling faces filled a large portion of the parking lot on Sunday, September 18th. The Giving Tree Preschool partnered with FCC Children's Ministry for an Ice-Cream Social.



We were blessed with great weather, allowing for a wonderful evening of fellowship and fun. We were pleased to have around 30-35 Giving Tree students in attendance with their families. We even had grandparents from Western Kansas drive to Lawrence to attend! We love our Giving Tree families and the support they provide to our school and the staff!



Thank you to all the teachers and FCC volunteers for your help in making this a memorable event!

The fall season is officially upon us! The Giving Tree children are learning about all that comes along with this beautiful season. We are busy investigating apples, leaves and squirrels. Our classes went on a walking field trip to South Park to explore the most recent changes taking place in nature.

One of the best parts of our day is sharing the weekly Bible story. We have been learning about prayer, Creation, Noah's Ark and most importantly that God loves us all. We are thankful He continues to bless our wonderful school! We appreciate and thank you for your continued prayers and support.



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



STEWARDSHIP

One of my favorite things, Pastor David might, ask me to do is to fill the baptistry. That request indicates that he has been spending time with someone, sharing the Gospel and that person has made the very important decision to accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior! Another favorite thing for me working at the church is to hear the children from the Giving Tree laughing and yes sometimes screaming as they run out to the playground. Another exciting ministry that takes place here at First Christian! It is exciting to think that they are in the basement learning basic academic and social skills, but most importantly they are learning about Jesus and his incredible love for us. When you give your contributions to the church, I hope you think of all that you are helping to make happen. Your gifts are providing water for the baptistry a Pastor to walk alongside that new believer and a safe and clean environment for the preschool children to learn in.

Giving to First Christian is easy! You may drop a check or cash in the Sunday offering plate, mail a check to the church office, use our online giving option, or give right from your cell phone. A great way to keep your giving consistent is with the Online Giving option on our website. You can set up a onetime payment or recurring payments. It is very easy to use, just go to our website at www.fcclawrence.org, click on the "Give" button, and follow the instructions. You may also text "fcclawrence" to 77977 this too will take you to our giving page.

Below we have provided the YTD totals for the Unified Budget at the end of August 2016. We are showing a net loss of \$11,143. At the end of August we should be at 67% of the budget, income is at 64% and expenses at 67%. The Unified Budget includes contribution income only, operating expenses and church support for Missions and Outreach.

Unified Budget thru August

YTD Income	\$ 262,940.00
YTD Expense	\$ 274,083.00
YTD Net Income/(Loss)	\$ (11,143.00)

Lisa Hoag, Business Administrator

UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct 1 PeaceMakers
Oct 2 Cub Scouts Class
Oct 3 Prayer Shawl Ministry
Oct 4 PATH Exercise Group
Cub Scouts
Elder's Meeting
Lydia Ladies
Oct 5 Ruth CWF
Jr & Sr High Youth
Worship Team Practice
Pastor's Study
Oct 6 PATH Exercise Group
Women's Bible Study
Choir Rehearsal
Oct 9 Cub Scouts Class
Oct 10 PeaceMakers

Oct 11 PATH Exercise Group
Cub Scouts
Children's Advisory Team
Oct 12 Jr & Sr High Youth
Worship Team Practice
Pastor's Study
Oct 13 PATH Exercise Group
Women's Bible Study
JOY
Choir Rehearsal
Oct 16 Cub Scouts Class
Oct 17 Trustee's Meeting
Oct 18 PATH Exercise Group
Cub Scouts
Oct 19 Warm Hearts
Jr & Sr High Youth

Oct 19 Kid's Group
Worship Team Practice
Pastor's Study
Oct 20 PATH Exercise Group
Women's Bible Study
Youth Advisory Team
Choir Rehearsal
Oct 23 Cub Scouts Class
Oct 25 PATH Exercise Group
Cub Scouts
Oct 26 Jr & Sr High Youth
Worship Team Practice
Pastor's Study
Oct PATH Exercise Group
Women's Bible Study
Choir Rehearsal

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Get Connected

Social Media

- **Facebook.com/**
firstchristianlawrence
- **Fcclawrence.org**
- **Twitter @fcclawrenceks**
- **Instagram @fcclawrenceks**
- **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.

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.

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

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

STAFF

Senior Pastor, Dr. David Pendergrass
Matthew Mulnix, Modern Worship
Kiyun Lee, Youth & Children's Ministry

david@fcclawrence.org
matthew@fcclawrence.org
kiyun@fcclawrence.org

Lisa Hoag, Finance Office
Main Office
Wedding Coordinators

lisa@fcclawrence.org
office@fcclawrence.org
weddings@fcclawrence.org