

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

I recently received the results from a DNA test that I submitted to Ancestry.com. It says that I'm almost 90% British, which explains why I've always been an Anglophile! I'm working on my British accent, but it's horrible. And while I'm practicing my accent, I began exploring my genealogy (again). It's made me think about all of my ancestors and what flows in my blood. Besides discovering that I'm related to David Crockett (which is pretty cool), I've discovered other things that my ancestors did. One, while a Private in the Confederate army, was captured during the Civil War and was released (or escaped!) and then had tons of kids. I can't imagine what I *don't* know about my ancestors. I can't imagine how many of my mannerisms and features have been passed down to me without my knowledge.

The Church is like that, too. So many people have no idea that we believe things and do things within churches that have been passed down to us from our spiritual ancestors. For example, on Tuesday, October 31, the Protestant Church all over the world will celebrate "Reformation Sunday." This happens every year. Yet, this year, it's the 500th anniversary.

The Protestant Reformation is what we call the schism that occurred in the sixteenth century, in England, between Roman Catholics a large group of Christian thinkers (called "Protestants" because they *protested* various aspects of Roman Catholicism). It was initiated by Martin Luther and was continued by John Calvin, Huldrych Zwingli, and others for the next century. The day that "lit the fuse" on the Reformation bomb was when Martin Luther, a Catholic priest, wanted to have a discussion/debate with other Catholics on certain aspects of the Church in England. He nailed his proposed discussion to the door of a Wittenberg church in 1517. We call this document the "Ninety-five Theses" (or *Disputation on the Power of Indulgences*). With celerity, it was copied and disseminated. He was trying to reform the church. He actually began the greatest schism the Church experienced since the Roman Catholic and Orthodox Churches split in 1054.



Martin Luther had been translating the Bible from the original languages (the exact room is in the picture to the left). He discovered that the Catholic Church taught and practiced multiple things that Scripture did not support, like selling "indulgences" (= giving money to the Church to decrease your time in eternal punishment) and the sovereign authority of the Pope and the Church's tradition. Instead, Luther emphasized two facts: (1) Scripture was the chief authority for faith and practice (*sola scriptura*) and thus, (2) faith in Jesus, and not any "works" of ours, is the way to receive God's forgiveness/salvation (*sola fide*).

Luther was unrelenting in his elevation of Scripture as the chief authority—it could *never* be any tradition, or experience, or denomination, or individual person or authority. He once said, *"This word of God is the beginning, the foundation, the rock, upon which afterward all works, words and thoughts of man must build."* At another time, Luther said, *"Note well, that the power of Scripture is this: it will not be altered by the one who studies it; instead it transforms the one who loves it."*



Luther got in trouble. The Catholic Church convened a council (called a "Diet") to deal with Luther's ideas. Luther was summoned to renounce or reaffirm his views at the Imperial Diet of Worms on 23 January 1521. Luther said many things. But, what he *didn't* do was recant. He finished his speech with this quote:

"Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Scriptures or by clear reason (for I do not trust either in the pope or in councils alone, since it is well known that they have often erred and contradicted themselves), I am bound by the Scriptures I have quoted and my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and will not recant anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience. May God help me. Amen."

Thus, the global Church is divided into three major branches: the Roman Catholic, the Orthodox, and the Protestant. A plethora of Protestant churches exist: e.g., Lutheran, Methodist, Baptist, Pentecostal, and Disciples of Christ. To this day, two fundamental facts still shape every single Protestant Church around the world: *Scripture is the chief authority for faith and practice and faith in Jesus alone is the means of salvation.*

While we are pleased to practice faith alongside our Catholic and Orthodox siblings, First Christian is deliberately a Protestant church. And while you might not always know why or how things "got this way" in the Church, you can know that we are heirs to centuries of spiritual ancestors who have shaped our very beliefs and practices. Now, I've got to get back to working on my British accent. "Good-day, matel!" Oh wait, that's Australian.

David W. Pendergrass, Ph.D.

Senior Pastor

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS



Did you sing *This Little Light of Mine* as a child? This song is a favorite of our FCC Kids preschoolers. Eager little hands choose the flashlight from the song box, turn it on, and we begin to sing (one with a flashlight, while the rest of us hold up our index finger *lights*). This song is a depiction of what Jesus said in Matthew 5:16: ...*let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.*



Each day, we have the choice to *be a light* to a dark world, to *shine the light* of Jesus so that others can *see* and *recognize* Him. On **Sunday, October 29th**, FCC Kids will *be a light* in Lawrence as we host Trunk or Treat from 5 – 8 pm. You can *shine your light* at Trunk or Treat, as well. We need volunteers to help with set-up and clean up, to decorate their trunks and pass out candy to



trunk-or-treaters, to facilitate carnival games, to help with crafts and food, and more. Contact Elaine to volunteer.

Elaine W. Pendergrass (Pastor to Children)

elaine@fcclawrence.org

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

THE GIVING TREE PRESCHOOL NEWS



The Giving Tree and FCC Children's Ministry hosted our 2nd annual ice-cream social on Sunday, September 10th. The staff and families enjoyed a wonderful evening of fellowship and we were blessed with beautiful weather. The children enjoyed playing on the playground, face painting, a bounce house and of course a sweet ice cream treat. Thank you to all the teachers, parents, FCC staff and volunteers for your help in making this a successful event.



With the season of fall officially upon us, the beauty of the season is a reminder of all that God has created here on our earth. I truly enjoy all the fall colors, the harvest of apples and pumpkins and most importantly the opportunity to share stories from the Bible with our preschoolers. We have been learning about prayer, creation and God's love for each one of us.

The Giving Tree would like to invite you and your family and friends to our Chris Cakes Pancake Fundraiser on Saturday, October 21st in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us from 8:00 am-11:00 am for all you can eat pancakes--\$5.00/per person. All proceeds will benefit The Giving Tree Scholarship Fund. We hope to see you on the 21st!

Julie Hafenstine (The Giving Tree Preschool Director)

www.lawrencepreschool.com

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



WORSHIP MINISTRY NEWS



September was an awesome month for the Worship Ministry at FCC! We declared with our voices that “we have gathered in His name to worship Him”, and “through You, nothing is impossible”. As a body, we read prayers aloud that spoke of our Father’s majesty from “east to west”. All this was done in order to prepare our hearts to learn about God’s creation, through the “Origins” sermon series. With a focus on Genesis, we took the opportunity to sing joyfully about our planet, time, humanity, and our salvation despite the concept of evil.

Offertories

9/03 - "Life Means So Much" - Dr. David Pendergrass, voice

9/10- “For the Beauty of the Earth” - Taylor Webb, flute

9/17- “He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands” - FCC Kids

9/24- “How Beautiful” - Judy Chadwick, piano

If you’d like to participate in an upcoming offertory, email myself or Judy Chadwick at dennis.chadwick@gmail.com. Let us honor God through our talents and gifts!

Matthew Mulnix (Modern Worship Director)

matthew@fcclawrence.org

“Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!” Psalm 95:1 (ESV)

YOUTH NEWS



Last Month: Our new Pastor to College & Youth, Paul Porter, eased into his transition to the new city, church, and environment. FCC YTH started their Wednesday evening semester series, “Who is God...REALLY?” and their Sunday morning mini-devotional series, “Gospel Driven Ambition” which focused on centering and driving ambitions by the gospel of Jesus Christ. During September, FCC YTH also participated in 3 parking lot fundraisers which helped to bolster their funds. To close out the month, FCC YTH in conjunction with other local churches participated in the annual and national event, “See You at the Pole,” where students prayed over their schools.

This Month: FCC YTH will continue their semester series, “Who is God...REALLY?” on **Wednesday evenings, in The Pit, from 6-8pm**. On Sunday **mornings, at 10am, also in The Pit**, FCC YTH will join together and learn about various topics answering the overall question: “How does the Christian Worldview Make Sense of Evil & Suffering?” This 5-week series will explore deep, reflective, and challenging questions regarding evil and suffering in the world today. Also, FCC YTH will be helping out with Trunk or Treat at the end of the month.

Next Month: As the holiday season approaches, FCC YTH will be participating and/or preparing for events like Holiday Shop and a fall/winter event. More details to come for the rest of the semester.

If you have some time and desire to volunteer for FCC YTH on some Wednesday nights, parking lot fundraisers, or be an adult sponsor at FCC YTH outings and events, please contact Paul Porter. Thank you and prayers abound!

Paul Porter (Pastor to Youth and College)

paul@fcclawrence.org



@fcc_yth



fbl.me/fccyth

Annual Gala – “Take the Plunge 2” – Saturday, Oct. 28!

October 28 – at the camp:

10:00 Registration; 10:30 -- Silent Auction & Optional tours of the Pool.

11:30 – Chapel Piano Concert, Walter Colvin

12:15 – Dinner & Auction fun!

Menu: *Fresh baked bread, Salad, Pork Tenderloin with Cranberry Salsa, Beef Tenderloin with mushrooms, Roast Turkey Breast with gravy, Green Beans, Martin’s Dirty Rice, Mixed Fall Vegetables, Dessert.*

The 2017 Gala will celebrate 13 years of camp ministry, including the “new pool” which our campers enjoyed this past summer! However, we still have some debt which we need to retire soon!

**Yes... the 1960’s Swimming Pool
was renovated and we need to retire our
debt!**



A zero-entrance ramp was made, along with a “splash pad” complete with spraying mushroom!

We now have a greatly improved filtration system; greater ease of maintenance and cleaning; new decking; better control of both water and chemicals. All these make the pool more appropriate for camp use. In addition, we envision an entirely new Bath House, with a new fence!



Gala prizes may include... Florida vacation – autographed KU basketball – ¼ side of Kansas home grown beef - Pool Party for 40 - a Wine Package - an open-air airplane ride for two at Stearman Field (at Benton, north of Wichita) with lunch provided – a WSU package – Wichita Symphony tickets with Hotel... and the list goes on!

How can you help? Great question!

- **Sign up** to come – tickets are only \$45! And, bring a friend!
Online Registration available at kansasdisciples.org.
- **Volunteer** to help (send us a message, please).
- **Donate** an item for the Auction – “experiences” are often more attractive than an item.

Enclosed you will find both the **Donation** and the **Registration** forms. If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Steve Martin in the Regional Office – 800-737-8130 or smartin@kansasdisciples.org.



Disciples Center at Tawakoni – Annual Gala & Auction
Donation Form – Oct. 28, 2017

Donor: Name _____
 Address _____
 City, zip _____
 Church _____
 Telephone (including area code) _____
 Email _____

Item Description (Please be as specific as possible):

Will item be at Auction? _____ Yes _____ No

If not, do you need a certificate made? _____ Yes _____ No

Is this item time specific? _____ Yes _____ No Please specify _____

Other information:

Estimated Value: _____

Please email completed forms to Jamey.kendall@yahoo.com.

If you have specific questions, please contact Jamey at: 785-554-7533.

Donation Drop-off options:

Great Bend office – 5230 Broadway, Great Bend – 620-792-6490

Topeka Regional Office – 2914 SW MacVicar - 785-266-2914

Camp/South Central Office – 8492 SW Tawakoni Rd – 316-775-1222

2017 Planning Team: Jamey Kendall (Topeka), Karla Whiteside (Topeka), Di Watkins (Parsons), Sylvia Griggs (Hutchinson), Debi Rogers (Manhattan), Brenda Davis (Topeka)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



Pancakes With the Pastor | Saturday, October 7th | 9am

Join us at the Big Biscuit on the **first Saturday of every month** for fun, informal fellowship. No need to eat pancakes, we'll just be so glad to have you there! To learn more, please contact Pastor David at david@fcclawrence.org. Our next meeting will be **October 7th**. See you soon!



The Giving Tree Preschool Chris Cakes Fundraiser | October 21st | 8-11am

Mark your calendars for Saturday, Oct. 21st and get ready for The Giving Tree Preschool's annual Chris Cakes Fundraising Event! Pancakes will be served at FCC from 8-11am, and the price is \$5 per plate. Contact Julie (julie@fcclawrence.org) for more info!



5th Sunday Brunch | Sunday October 29th | 10am

Please join us at FCC for a free, fun, family-style, potluck **brunch**! No signup is required. Just bring your favorite breakfast food for yourself and a few other people. This is a great opportunity for fun and fellowship with other members and visitors of First Christian. If you want to let us know what you're bringing, go ahead and sign up in Fellowship Hall. We hope to see you there!



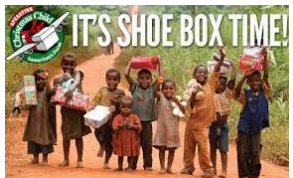
Trunk or Treat | Sunday, October 29th | 5pm

We anticipate hundreds of people on the FCC campus, and you can help. Volunteers are needed to help set-up and clean up, decorate trunks and more! Contact Elaine (elaine@fcclawrence.org) to volunteer. Donations of the following are needed: bags of individually wrapped candy, stickers, or other small give-away items. Donations can be left in marked bins in Fellowship Hall.



Thanksgiving Dinner | November 12th | 6pm

As we approach the fall holiday season, we'd like to invite you to a free, church-wide Thanksgiving Dinner, here at FCC! You don't need to bring anything except your appetite (and maybe a friend or two). Please let us know you're coming so we can get an accurate head count! You can sign up in Fellowship Hall!



Operation Christmas Child | Collecting, November 13-20 | Fellowship Hall

Operation Christmas Child allows Christians to pack a shoe box filled with gifts for a needy child in another country. It also provides a way to share the good news of Jesus with that child. Filled shoe boxes can be turned in to First Christian Church November 13-17. For more information visit <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/> or contact Elaine!

PERSPECTIVES CLASS

MADE FOR MORE

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

Sundays 4-7pm | January 14th - April 29th | First Christian Church | Cost: \$250 - discounts available, college credit offered

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.

First night is free - come check it out!

For more information or to register, go to: Perspectives.org/LawrenceKS_S18

Live with passion. Run with purpose.



STEWARDSHIP

One of my favorite things to see on a Sunday morning is someone being baptized. That means Pastor David, Elaine or Paul has been spending time with someone, sharing the Gospel and that person has decided 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 the children 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 baptistery a Pastor to walk alongside that new believer and a safe and clean environment for the preschool children to learn and play.

As we move into October, we will begin our annual stewardship drive. Please look for further information in your bulletin and in the mail later this month.

Below we have provided the YTD totals for the Unified Budget at the end of August. We are showing a net income of \$12,036.00. At the end of August we should be at 67% of the budget, income is at 65% and expenses at 63%. The Unified Budget includes contribution income only, operating expenses and church support for Missions and Outreach.

Unified Budget Through August, 2017

YTD Income	\$ 318,623.00
YTD Expenses	\$ 306,587.00
YTD Net Income/(Loss)	\$ 12,036.00

To Give

Online - 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

MISSIONARY NEWS



An Update from the Swanson Family:

Our daughter, Rachel, is married, our son, Ryan, has begun college, and we connected with other returning Wycliffe missionaries in Orlando one week before Irma hit. The 8.1 earthquake in Oaxaca where we normally live shook our friends living in Mitla to the core, but only minor damage there. The people living in or near Juchitán (140 miles from Mitla) are suffering greatly. The missionary community is combining efforts to send relief to the area. We feel blessed to be living in farm country in the Midwest. In the next few weeks, we are taking some time to decompress.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

1000 Kentucky Street • Lawrence KS 66044

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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"First Christian
Lawrence"



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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	david@fcclawrence.org
Elaine Pendergrass, Pastor to Children	elaine@fcclawrence.org
Greg Boyle, Traditional Worship	greg@fcclawrence.org
Julie Hafenstine, Director of Giving Tree	julie@fcclawrence.org
Lisa Hoag, Business Administrator	lisa@fcclawrence.org
Maddie Markley, Office Coordinator	office@fcclawrence.org
Matthew Mulnix, Modern Worship	matthew@fcclawrence.org
Paul Porter, Pastor to Youth and College	paul@fcclawrence.org
Church Elders	elders@fcclawrence.org

Want to make an announcement? Send an email to social@fcclawrence.org

Office Hours: Monday — Friday, 9am to 4pm (closed 12-1pm)

785-843-0679

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

PUT ME ON THE REFRIGERATOR!



Sunday | Oct. 1st
10:15am | Fellowship Hall.
Come to learn more about FCC.



Serve at L.I.N.K. in the basement.
Sunday | Oct. 8th | 12:30pm
Sign up at the Welcome Desk.



Sunday | Oct. 1st | 12pm.
Sunday | Oct. 15th | Traditional
11:15am. Modern 12:15pm.



Saturday | Oct. 7th | 9am
Come to The Big Biscuit!
david@fcclawrence.org



CFW National Conference
Oct. 6-8 | Augusta KS
jwilsonbonner@gmail.com



JOY (Just Older Youth)
Oct. 12th | 11am | Perkins
jwilsonbonner@gmail.com



Chris Cakes Fund Raiser
Oct. 21st | 8-11am | \$5
julie@fcclawrence.org



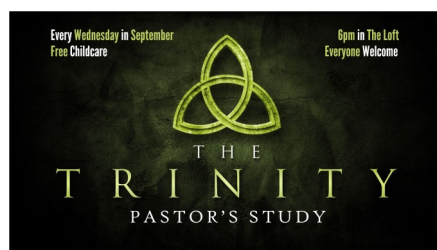
Sunday | Oct. 29th | 10am
Fellowship Hall. Let us know if
you can bring a breakfast food!



Sunday | Oct. 29th | 5pm
FCC Parking Lot
Fun for the whole family!



We are still enrolling for the
2017-2018 school year.
julie@fcclawrence.org



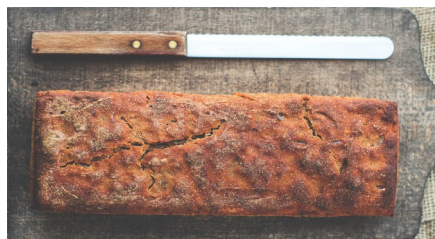
Pastor's Study
Wednesdays | 6pm | The Loft
office@fcclawrence.org



Driver Needed!
Traditional Service
sherrimillsap@me.com



Have you joined a DGroup? It's
never too late. See a list of groups
in the Fellowship Hall.



Bread Ministry
Weekly | Fellowship Hall
matthews@sunflower.com



Who is God...REALLY
Wednesdays | 6pm | The Pit
paul@fcclawrence.org

COMMUNITY AT FCC LAWRENCE

