

# FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH



Hey Church Family,

It seems the most common explanation for why a person either can't believe in the Christian God, or abandons their Christian faith, is the existence of evil and suffering. The classic response goes like this: If God is all-good, he wouldn't allow evil/suffering. If God were all-powerful, he wouldn't allow evil/suffering. So, either God is either not all-good or not all-powerful, or perhaps, both. Copious books have been written in response; I just have ten points in response.



**First**, let's get one type of suffering out of the way with celerity, viz., suffering caused by *someone else's evil choices*. Every time someone is murdered, beat up, raped, lied to, betrayed, etc., it's because a human has made an evil choice. So, to be clear, when a free-willed moral agent decides not to do the right/good thing, but instead chooses the bad/wrong/evil thing, it can involve causing another person to suffer. And of course, it sure is easy to focus on the suffering *other* people cause with *their* evil choices, and not pay attention to the suffering that *we* cause when *we* choose to do evil. Evil choices aren't just done in other people. Suffering isn't just caused by other people. We do it. And we do it well.

So, to answer the question, "Where is God when people suffer from another human's evil choices?" We say with ease: He's certainly aware and very, very disappointed that the person is doing the evil. God hates evil. The one doing evil could have just as easily done the right thing. This is why hell is a moral necessity: moral agents who choose evil will receive a response from God. And they won't like it. Our evil choices do not go unnoticed.

And remember, free will is a great, great good. It allows for morality, good choices, and good character. It allows us to do genuine good deeds to other humans, animals, and creation.

So, to say it once more before moving on: there is no reason to have outrage over suffering caused by the evil choices humans make. It is not God's fault at all that a person chooses evil and causes suffering; it's humanity's fault. It is simply ridiculous to blame God for a person's choices. Be mad at them! Be outraged at them! God is not to blame for what a free-willed moral agent chooses. This is why evil has nothing to do with God's goodness (humans are to blame) or power (God doesn't control our free will).

**Second**, there is a kind of suffering that any rational human basically accepts. This is the kind of suffering we experience when *we're the cause* of our own suffering, or when we've given *someone else permission to cause us* to suffer. When my muscles hurt after I've been to the gym, it's perfectly acceptable to me. It's my fault. I chose it. That suffering is acceptable and fair. When I suffer at the doctor's office when the needle is inserted into my arm, it's perfectly acceptable to me. It's my fault that I went to the doctor when sick. I chose to be in this position and knew the consequences. There is no moral outcry over this kind of suffering. The same is true for suffering that other people experience when they are the cause of the suffering. When someone crushes a soda can on his forehead and it causes a terrible headache later, that's perfectly acceptable to me. It's his fault. That suffering is acceptable and fair. There is no moral outcry over this kind of suffering.

**Third**, this really only leaves natural events: you know, tornadoes, hurricanes, sudden physical ailments, etc. That is, some suffering is because of the Laws of Nature established by God (e.g., Jer. 33:25). When a construction worker falls off a roof and breaks his leg, it's the result of the force of gravity and the weakness of his leg. When water fills up a town during a hurricane and people drown, it's because humans can't breathe under water. We could go on and on with examples of "natural disasters." Of course, it's only a "disaster" when it causes humans to suffer. We don't call lightning strikes in the wilderness, which can kill trees and the organisms and insects on those trees, a "natural disaster." It's just what nature does. It really only bothers us when humans suffer.



Now, it's crucial to understand that natural laws are necessary for humans. They allow us stability and the capacity to cultivate crops and develop society. Imagine trying to grow crops with dirt floating around in zero gravity. Imagine attempting to build a civilization if there were no natural laws or uniformity: random black holes, fluctuating gravity patterns, stars bursting into existence by the moon, etc. It would be absolute chaos. Human flourishing would be impossible. We need laws. Laws are good for us. Unfortunately, of course, these laws of nature are the precondition of certain events which occur that can cause humans to suffer, like hurricanes and tornadoes.

Hurricanes are wonderful for the ocean's climate. They feed wildlife in the ocean; they redistribute heat energy in the oceans; they dump millions of gallons of water on land, which is drunk by not only all wildlife and plants, but also humans. That is, (at least some) natural events do good (even if we can't yet know every single way it does good). The only problem is: they can cause humans to suffer. And that bothers us.

So, the question goes like this, "God, why did you create the Laws of Nature like the way they are if they can cause humans to suffer?" The answer is not revealed in Scripture or in revelation. Could God have created a universe or planet with humans on it without hurricanes? Without tornadoes? Without the rise of cancer or H.I.V.? I guess so.

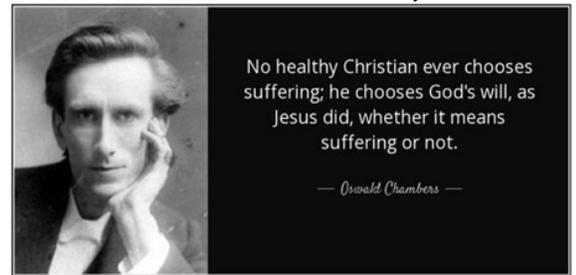
What I *do* know is that the suffering natural events can cause is necessary for humans to experience a wide range of character-building opportunities. I can develop courage, patience, sacrifice, generosity, humility, etc. when serving those who have suffered. This leads to my next point...

**Fourth**, in the Christian worldview, your physical/emotional pleasure is not the ultimate good. Your lack of suffering is not the ultimate good. Your physical life is not the ultimate good. *God (and what He wants) is the ultimate good.* We are not God's pets, brought into existence to be raised in the most comfortable environment possible, given treats whenever "good," and kept as happy as possible.

I cannot overemphasize this point enough. When Christians say that God is "all-good," we do not mean what the typical non-Christian means by goodness: *the prevention of suffering.* We do *not* mean that God wants humans to be happy at all times. God is certainly all-good; it's just that His goodness is not manifested by making sure we never suffer. God's goodness is manifested by His unrelenting *care for our good.* This is the whole ballgame. God cares for my good, not for my happiness. My "good" involves a whole range of character-building experiences in an effort to get us to behave, think, and value just as Jesus does (e.g., Rom. 5:3-4).

Any parent with basic, healthy goals for their children understands this point. I absolutely adore my children. What I most certainly do not want for them the most is "for them to be happy" (the most common expression I hear from parents). What an absurd, silly goal that would be. Crack addicts are happy. Sociopaths are happy. Thieves are happy.

I want my children to develop profoundly healthy, Christian character. And this means that I will deliberately limit their happiness in some areas and even cause them suffering in order for their characters to develop in the way I want. And to want this is not sadistic. It's called good parenting. My kids must get ready for the real world. They need to have the character necessary to meet the demands of life. And it's my job as their parent to make sure their character is ready for adulthood. If I only make sure they are like my pets—fat and happy—then I will have failed them miserably! (Though my pets aren't fat...spare the emails.)



There is simply no way around this fact: the Christian narrative presents God as one who is chiefly concerned with my good, not my happiness. Jesus suffered and died a tortuous death on a cross. Moreover, He guaranteed suffering would occur to His disciples because others will hate us (e.g., Luke 21:17). There is simply no way around this fact. You cannot believe that God really just wants you to avoid suffering while Jesus, God's Son and the Messiah, died a horrible, suffering death. In fact, Jesus's suffering demonstrates another key element of suffering: that is suffering one person experiences so that another person does not.

And that's a great thing. It's a really good thing. We live in a world with other free-willed moral agents and natural events that gives us plenty of opportunities to develop our character and to suffer on behalf of others; to be really, genuinely morally responsible for other people in their pain and suffering; to be able to suffer ourselves so that other people are morally responsible for us; etc. They develop their character; we develop ours. Our planet is a huge classroom. And every day we have the chance to learn something.

**Fifth**, not one single thing I've said so far makes suffering fun, easy, likeable, nice, or awesome. Nothing. It takes one single picture in our mind of people drowning in hurricane waters, tsunami waves, the winds of a tornado, the starvation of a person without adequate rainfall or produce, the murder of a child, etc. to give us a visceral response to suffering.

Believe me, I hate those realities too. So, I need to be very clear here: *the fact that people suffer is not good.* The *fact that we have the opportunities to develop our character* is good.

If there are good reasons for suffering in our world, then why do I still hate suffering? Why do I still have an emotional response to suffering? Because it's suffering. It's pain. We're supposed to have emotional/psychological response to suffering so that we go do something about it. And no amount of intellectual answers make our visceral, emotional responses go away. They shouldn't.

Now, this is a very big deal. Why? Because most who reject Christianity because of suffering do so because no amount of explanation makes the emotional response to suffering go away. It still bothers them tremendously. My point here is: it should. I don't know any Christian I've ever met in my life who is also not terribly bothered by the suffering in the world. If you're waiting on suffering to feel good before you'll consider Christianity, then I'm afraid you'll be waiting forever.

**Sixth**, understanding why suffering occurs will never ever make suffering easier to experience. That's not how the psyche works. To be very clear—the very best response to suffering is to grieve, not to seek for answers as to “why.” I don't like to have my tooth pulled even though I know perfectly well why it needs to be done. Knowing “why” doesn't make the suffering go away. Suffering still hurts no matter what I understand. Of course it does; it's suffering.

**Seventh**, in the Christian worldview, which is true, all suffering will be punished or rewarded. The ancient prophets believed that God caused the ancient Jews to suffer from time to time because of their disobedience. That is, God would inspire certain nations to attack the Jews (e.g., Jer. 25:16) or cause droughts, etc. (e.g., Isa. 13:11; Jer. 8:12-13). This caused much suffering. In the New Testament, we see that God no longer does that. God's punishment for all humans who are not Christians will take place on what we call the Day of the Lord (Yom Adonai) or Judgment Day. Of course, embracing the gospel obviates judgment.

And for Christians, we will be rewarded for our role in the Kingdom of God by the grace of God (e.g., Matt 16:27). The apostle Paul, who was betrayed, beaten multiple times, shipwrecked multiple times, hungry often, imprisoned constantly, was also concerned, worried, or depressed for his churches at all times. He knew suffering. He knew it well. And he gives a response to his immense suffering in life that only befits the Christian worldview:

*“Therefore we do not despair, but even if our physical body is wearing away, our inner person is being renewed day by day. For our momentary, light suffering is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison because we are not looking at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen. For what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal”* (2 Cor. 4:16-18 NET).

**Eighth**, ancient Jews and Christians never once saw suffering as evidence that God didn't exist. They questioned God's thoughts. They might question His attentiveness or awareness to a person's plight. And we don't have evidence (though it certainly might have happened) that any Jews ever stopped being observant Jews because of suffering.

The same is true of Christians. They might return to believe in their former gods, but they wouldn't turn into an atheist. Very few people in the ancient world would qualify as an atheist. However, Christians most certainly could reject Jesus after they experienced suffering (e.g., Mark 4:17; Hebrews 6:4-6). This is why Christian authors constantly encouraged their audience to “endure” or “to conquer” (the temptation to reject Christianity)—to make it to the end faithfully (e.g., Mark 13:13; Hebrews 10:36; throughout Revelation).

**Ninth**, perhaps the most common reason why a Christian is able to survive immense suffering in life is the one reason that is most allusive and frustrating to non-Christians: because we trust God.

Now, why in the world would we do that? Is because we're just stupid? Blind to the truth? Oblivious? Desperate to believe in something? Just because it brings us comfort? Perhaps. Perhaps there are Christians who believe they can trust God for these reasons. It's just that I don't know of any serious, thinking Christian who would espouse such views. I sure don't trust God for those reasons.

I trust God during suffering for two reasons: (1) The biblical narrative demonstrates to me that God can be trusted. God uses every single event in history in His grand scheme of establishing the kingdom of God.

Jesus's ministry and life, death, and resurrection tells me that God is profoundly loving. It tells me that in the midst of extreme suffering, He has not abandoned me. It tells me that suffering is to be expected and that He is the best source of comfort I have available. (2) My personal experiences of suffering have been so much more tolerable because of the real, actual presence of God. I haven't experienced God's peace all the time or in every experience. Nope. But, I have enough to know that He's present with me.

And this isn't unique. You can speak with millions and millions of Christians who will tell you the same thing. They will tell you that they have really, genuinely felt a kind of hopeful peace in the midst of suffering that sustained them. Go ahead. Ask them.

**Tenth**, I want to end on this analogy...a parable if you will. Imagine that you commit to picking me up for work one day because my car broke. But, you never showed. Because of that, I got fired. My boss didn't care why I didn't show. It now means I must move to a cheaper place. My kids won't be able to get those braces they need. My wife will have to work longer hours because of it.

Someone comes up to me and asks me about the suffering I'm going through. They inquire as to why I'm going through it. I tell them it's because I counted on you to follow through on your commitment to me. This person declares, "You really think that your friend exists?! Really?! Where was your friend when you needed him?" I respond, "I don't know. He hasn't told me yet." The person continues: "You really think any friend would do that to you? Either your friend doesn't exist, and you're just delusional and seriously need medication; or, your friend is a villain. There's simply no way around it. Either your friend is a fairy tale or evil."

What would you think of this person's charge against you?

I might respond, "No...no. You don't know my friend like I do. And this is crucial: if you knew my friend like I do, you would trust him. I know enough of my friend to trust him when things happen that I don't understand. Eventually he'll tell me why his absence caused this suffering. But for now...I trust him."

Now, don't miss this: Imagine how hard it would be for me to convince you that my friend is trustworthy without you knowing him like I do. No matter what I said to you, you'd not be fully convinced that my friend is fully trustworthy. You'd think me a little crazy. Moreover, and maybe more importantly, you'd never place your trust in my friend based solely on my testimony about my friend. The only way to trust a person is get to know the person personally--yourself. So it is with God. You might think *I* could trust Him; you'd not be inclined to put *your* trust in Him yourself. *This is precisely why we don't ever start with someone's absence when getting to know someone's character. We start with what we do know about the person.*

Christians don't make some blind leap of faith into the unknown. We don't begin with absence and just hope we're right. We trust a God who revealed Himself in Jesus of Nazareth. We start with what we *do* know and then trust Him with what we *don't* know. And until you know God the way most Christians do, no amount of response to the problem of suffering will suffice. And I don't blame you! I wouldn't trust someone I didn't know.

But, boy...am I so glad I know Him. I hope you do too.

For the Kingdom,



David W. Pendergrass, Ph.D.

Senior Pastor

# Children's Ministry



October is here! The leaves are turning vibrant colors, and the weather is cooling. Fall-colored mums and pumpkins now decorate front porches, and Halloween costumes fill the stores. While some celebrate Halloween with scary decorations and horror films, we can choose to celebrate it with a focus on the *One* (Jesus) who *lights* our world (John 8:12).

Last year, FCC Kids hosted Trunk or Treat, and nearly 1,000 people were on the First Christian Church campus! We were able to shine the *light* of Jesus in Lawrence last year, and we'll do it again this year. This year's Trunk or Treat will be on **Sunday, October 28** from **4:30 pm – 7:30 pm**.

You have the chance to shine the *light* of Jesus at Trunk or Treat! We need volunteers to help with set-up and clean up, to decorate their trunks and pass out candy or other treats to *trunk-or-treaters*, to facilitate carnival games, to help with crafts, and more. Contact Elaine Pendergrass ([elaine@fcclawrence.org](mailto:elaine@fcclawrence.org)) to volunteer.



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

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



FCCLawrenceKids

## EVANGELISM AND OUTREACH MINISTRIES

What a mess! At least some days that's the way I feel as I look upon the world around me.

What can I do about it? Some might think: There's too much to fix, I can't do anything of value, I'll just focus on myself.

As we pray, it can be easy to focus on the stresses and felt needs in our own lives, and focus our prayers upon ourselves... probably without intentionally doing so, but just following the pattern modeled to us. In all honesty, reflect a moment on the things you pray for? Who do you pray for? How do you pray? When do you pray? How are you modeling prayer to your friends? Spouse? Children?

How will good transformation in Lawrence, our own lives, our families, friends, co-workers, etc. come to pass? By our own strength? Our own great ideas? Our own words of wisdom? Mobilizing people for our own projects?

In various parts of the world, God is doing an incredible work of drawing thousands upon thousands of people to obedience to Jesus over very short periods of time. There are many movements to Christ spreading (in which a movement is defined as at least 100 churches to 4 or more generations). What a spread of the Kingdom of Christ! There are several key factors that are consistently part of these great works of God.

**Prayer and Fasting!** Those that desire to see the power of the Kingdom of God are deeply committed to a lifestyle of prayer. But what to pray?

We have an incredible example from Jesus in Matthew 6:9-13 (often called the Lord's prayer). While Jesus models praying for our own needs, it is interesting to consider the first three petitions:

- 1 - That the Father's name be glorified, seen as holy, exalted, etc in the world around us.
- 2 - That the Father's Kingdom come, His authority and good rule be acknowledged and lived out.
- 3 - That the Father's will be surrendered to and carried out in our lives and the world around us as perfectly as it is in Heaven.

WOW! That's deep! Imagine: How will we (and others) be transformed as we pray that for ourselves and our communities. As we adopt God's priorities as our own? Who knows, maybe even our needs and stresses would become clearer with God's holiness and will in mind? I invite each of you. Will you join me in praying the Lord's prayer? For the month of October, starting whenever you read this, to commit to reading and thinking upon the Lord's prayer 3 times a week, and using it as a model to build your prayers? Please do.

*"Few things have contributed to spiritual barrenness in the Church Christ founded as much as has the idea that prayer is mere quiet, meditational passivism. There is a time to be silent. There is a time to be still. To know the awesomeness of God's person and presence. But prayer is alive. It is alond with praise, aglow with warmth, attuned with song, aflame with power. And it is also unsettling in its violence. Not in the violence of its practice but in the violence of its impact when it is exercised with power." ~Jack Hayford - Prayer is invading the Impossible*

Father, be seen as good and awesome, holy and almighty! Accomplish your will in/and around me!

**David Nanne** 480-524-6785 | [dm.nanne@gmail.com](mailto:dm.nanne@gmail.com)

# THE GIVING TREE PRESCHOOL



Ice-cream sundaes, an inflatable bounce house, face painting and many happy families filled a large portion of our parking lot on Sunday, September 9th. The Giving Tree and FCC Children's Ministry co-hosted our 3rd annual ice-cream social. We had a wonderful evening of fun and fellowship and we were blessed with beautiful weather. We love our Giving Tree families and the support they provide to our school and the staff. Thank you to the teachers, parents, FCC staff and 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 have been exploring the harvest of apples as well as leaves and how they begin changing colors with the cooler weather. We are looking forward to a walking field trip to South Park to see the changes taking place in nature. God has truly created a beautiful world for us to explore!

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

 TheGivingTreePreschool



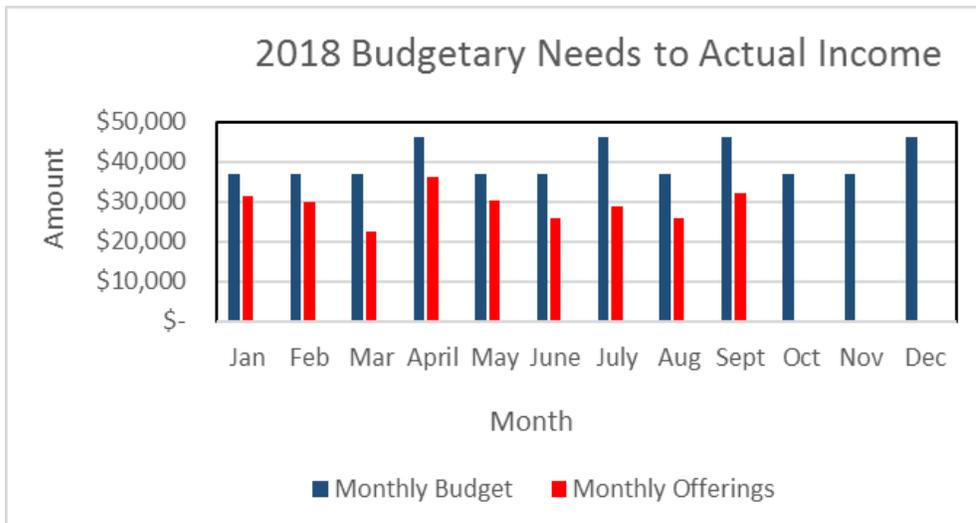
# STEWARDSHIP

Because you give, FCC is able to provide a place for people to come who are hurting and lost, a place to learn more about God and his incredible love for us, a place where God can use people to change lives! With your gifts and time we are able to provide food through LINK and to assist families with financial needs through the Pastor's Benevolence Fund. Because you give, we can maintain a wonderful facility for children to attend preschool, for those new Christians to be baptized, for bible studies, for recovery groups to meet, for couples to get married, for families to dedicate new babies and for families to say goodbye to their loved ones who have been called home. We are so thankful, because of so many, we can continue to minister and to be a place and a people that God can use to change lives!

Each year, in October and November, the Trustees begin work on the 2019 Budget and we will soon begin our Stewardship Focus. This is a time where we ask that you prayerfully consider how you might be able to financially support the ministries of First Christian. We know there are many choices for families when it comes to charitable giving. We hope that you find what we do here at FCC important and relevant in this very broken world. We hope you will support our efforts to provide for the needs of those who are hurting and lost and to provide a safe and clean environment to make disciples. Please watch for more information in the Sunday bulletins.

The Trustees continue to monitor the finances of the church. Please consider the following:

- On average we need \$9,204 per Sunday to cover our budgetary needs.
- Some months have 5 Sundays, the graph will indicate those months with an increase in the budget number.
- Larger one-time gifts or early annual payments of pledges will be spread over the remaining months.
- These numbers represent what is given to the Unified Budget for our operating, missions and outreach budget. It does not include gifts for the building, capital improvements or other designated gifts.
- The September numbers are preliminary, any change should be minimal. The Trustees will meet later this month to approve the September statements.



Aug Budget (4)	\$ 36,817
Aug Actual	\$ 25,811
Aug Deficit	\$11,006
Sept Budget (5)	\$ 46,022
Sept Actual	\$ 32,011
Sept Deficit	\$ 14,011

We were about 30% behind where we needed to be for August and 30% behind for September. At this rate, on average, we will be behind roughly \$130,000 at year end. If you haven't pledged, please consider doing so. If you could consider an additional gift for 2018, it would be very much appreciated. The Trustees are keeping a close eye on the finances and will keep you further updated through the newsletter and bulletins. If you have questions, please contact the Trustees via e-mail, [trustees@fclawrence.org](mailto:trustees@fclawrence.org).

Monthly giving will fluctuate from month to month, some of the fluctuation is related to the timing of gifts. If someone is on vacation or misses a Sunday, their gift may fall into the next month. To avoid this, might we suggest setting up recurring payments through our online giving option. Just go to our website and click the "Give" button. We recommend the ACH option as the fees are much less, than using a credit card. If you have questions or need help, please contact Marita in the Finance Office.

## Ways to Give

**Online** - [fclawrence.org](http://fclawrence.org) - Click the "Give" Button **Phone** - Text [fclawrence](tel:77977) to 77977

**Offering Plate** - Each Sunday **Mail** - First Christian Church, 1000 Kentucky Street, Lawrence, Ks 66044

# YOUTH MINISTRY



Dear FCC family,

As your new Interim Youth Pastor, I would like to take a few minutes and introduce myself. My name is Janice Wagner (but I also answer to Jan, Ms. Janice as the kids like to call me, and sometimes Hey You!). I originate from Garden City out in western Kansas. During my adult years of living in Garden I volunteered as both a Middle School and High School youth sponsor at various times. I also worked full time in a Middle School there for 15 years, before moving back to the eastern part of the state. Additional background in youth work involved working with infants, preschoolers, and grade school age children as well as their parents, so I feel like I am well rounded when it comes to working with youth.

I have worked at KU, as an IT Specialist, for the past 11 ½ years and moved from Gardner, Kansas to Lawrence nearly 2 years ago. After my move, as I was looking for churches, my neighbor Marita Elliot, invited me to visit. I attended FCC several times but had not yet decided if I would stay here or continue looking. I had been praying about something I could do to be more involved and get to know others in the community. I felt God telling me to get involved with youth work again.

Oddly enough, one Sunday after church, I found myself pulling Pastor Paul aside and asking if he had a need for any youth sponsors. After I had volunteered to be a sponsor, it occurred to me that FCC must be where GOD intended for me to be, since I had made a commitment as a volunteer while I was still contemplating where I should attend Church! Little did I know there was a specific reason to unfold a few months down the road! (Yep, I think God has a sense of humor!)

So this summer, when youth group started back up, I began attending and assisting Pastor Paul. With Paul's impending move, it quickly became apparent why GOD had led me to volunteer for that position. When Pastor David spoke to me about Pastor Paul leaving, it just seemed that God had put me here to provide continuity during a time that could have left the kids 'hanging'. I accepted the challenge and started questioning my decision. Even though I have a lot of experience assisting with youth in various ways I found myself feeling a little intimidated and worried. That is when I remembered that 'God does not call the Qualified....He qualifies the Called'.

I have grown to love these kids and am excited to be asked to carry on the work that Pastor Paul has been doing to help them grown in Christ and their relationship with Him. My prayer is that I can make this ministry something where the kids can 'Grow in Wisdom and Stature and Favor with God' and that it will be something they look forward to attending and joining into. Obviously I am still in the planning stages, but have ideas for some fun things down the road.

If your student (6<sup>th</sup> grade – 12<sup>th</sup> grade) hasn't been attending I would encourage you and them to try us out. Having a relationship with good Christian friends in school is really important these days. The world your kids live in is much different than the world that you and I grew up in and my belief is that they can't have too much Jesus in their life.

I do need to make you aware that we will be making a few time adjustments due to my regular work schedule.

5:10-6:00 pm - Open game time, snack time, hangout time or homework time

6:00-7:30 pm – Move to the Pit area for worship, discussion time, team building, etc.

*If anyone would be interested in volunteering to open the Youth Room earlier that I can get there (just after 5), provide student transportation, OR would be willing to assist as a Youth Sponsor and or a possible homework mentor, please contact me through Text message or phone call at 913-645-7062.*

# COMMUNITY AT FCC

## Birthdays

10/01 Jean Bonner  
10/01 Susan Dickson  
10/07 Alice Amyx  
10/24 Donna Tucker  
10/25 Judy Chadwick  
10/26 Ron Goodman

10/28 Delma Jensen  
10/28 Royce Parsons  
10/31 Phyllis Cawrey

## Anniversaries

10/05 Dan & Janet Matthews  
10/07 Gail & Barb Copple  
10/12 Royce & Catherine Parsons  
10/16 Bert & Michelle Van Foecken

## Prayer Requests

Stude Family  
Penny Family  
John Weeks  
Theo Dixon  
Tyler Lathrom  
Russell Platt  
Smith Family  
Studebaker  
LaVerne Calef  
June Woodward

Susan Dickson  
Ciara Stancer  
Allison  
Kimley  
Caroline Cawrey  
Lauren  
Malaiikui Johnson  
Caden Adams  
Peyton Family  
Carter Family

Edward Family  
Davis Family  
Gravino Family  
Johannsen Family  
Dean Stelter  
Gail Copple  
Soendker Family  
Tyler Lathrom  
Patty  
Fred Shirk

Stude Family  
Hiersche Family  
Hoag Family  
Jim, & Betty Chapin  
Royce & Cathy Parsons  
Ernestine Olendorff  
Sheldon Schreiner  
Studebaker Family  
Jenny Craig



TRADITIONAL SERVICE 8:45

FCCLAWRENCE.ORG

MODERN SERVICE 11:00

f FCCLawrence

## Pancakes with the Pastor

- Informal, fun, conversational
- 1st Saturday
- Big Biscuit at 9am
- If you can't afford it, we'll take care of it

\*No, you don't have to eat pancakes.

## WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT FCC?

### COFFEE & QUESTIONS

1ST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH  
9:30 AM  
FELLOWSHIP HALL

Explore our Vision and strategies to help reach our goals.  
Find out where YOU can use your gifts and talents to make disciples!

# OWN THE VISION

Choose from three sessions:  
MON. • SEPT. 24<sup>TH</sup> 7:00PM  
SAT. • OCT. 13<sup>TH</sup> 9:00AM  
SUN. • OCT. 21<sup>ST</sup> 5:00PM

Sign up in Fellowship Hall.  
Each session only one hour.

## CHURCH DIRECTORY

SIGN UP TODAY  
in Fellowship Hall



**PHOTOS ON** October 16-17 (Tue-Wed) 1:30pm-8:00pm  
November 12-13 (Mon-Tues) 1:30pm-8:00pm



FCC YTH

## FCC YOUTH

WEDNESDAYS • 6PM  
THE PIT (DOWNSTAIRS)



FCC KIDS

## TRUNK OR TREAT

Sun., October 28  
4:30pm – 7:30pm  
SIGN UP TODAY IN FELLOWSHIP HALL!

[B]e of the same mind, by having the same love,  
being united in spirit, and having one purpose.  
(Phil. 2:2 NET)

FCC ANNUAL FAMILY MEETING

Come celebrate what God is doing! All active Members welcome.  
November 11 • 5:30pm

SIGN UP TODAY IN FELLOWSHIP HALL!

## THANKSGIVING BANQUET

Bring the whole family!

SUNDAY, NOV. 11  
6PM • FELLOWSHIP HALL



# FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

1000 Kentucky Street • Lawrence KS 66044

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



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Office Hours: Monday — Friday, 9am to 4pm (closed 12-1pm) 785-843-0679

Come to First Christian this week! Traditional Worship 8:45am • Modern Worship 11am