

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

LAWRENCE, KANSAS

Hello Church Family!

I am so excited about all the things God is doing at First Christian! He is really working in people's lives: restoring relationships, breaking addictions, giving new jobs, healing depression and past trauma, inspiring re-commitment, and more. We have numerous people about to join. God's Kingdom is breaking in through His people and He's only getting started! Woohoo!



If someone asked you, "How do I read the library?" I imagine you would say something like, "Well, it depends on which book you pull off the shelf. You read Stephen King differently than you do an Atlas or a cookbook. The style and intention of the book determines how you should read it. If you read a cookbook the same as you do a book of poetry, you'll really misunderstand and misuse the cookbook! Directions to bake a cake aren't metaphorical and poetic. So, first determine the 'genre,' or 'literary style,' then determine how you should interpret it."

Well, the Bible is a mini-library. It contains a wide range of various literary types: narratives, historical chronicles, poems, songs, parables, *et al.* Just as it would be a huge mistake to read every book in the library the same, it would be a huge mistake to read every book in the Bible the same. They are best read and interpreted if we understand the style and intention of the book's authors.

This month, we start our kick-off of new **Growth Groups**. Our new Growth Groups, along with our Sunday morning Bible studies, are learning from the book, *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth*. This book (and free workbook) is an excellent overview of how to read the various genres of the Bible.

You will certainly want to be a part of a group. Growth Groups are an excellent way to meet new people, garner friendships, learn from each other, and study and apply Scripture. It doesn't matter if you know tons about the Bible or know nothing at all: this study will help you learn how to apply the Bible's life-saving message. Friendship and Bible study: who doesn't want that?



Also new this month is a new sermon series, *Free: Overcoming Life's Challenges*. In September and part of October, we'll explore Christian ways to deal with stress, grief, forgiveness, worry, anger, discouragement and negative thoughts, and doubts about our faith. I'm elated to see how God transforms us from the inside out through this series. Think about it: *who do you know right now who might benefit from what God says about these issues? Invite them!*

Finally, you'll notice a newly-designed website (www.fcclawrence.org). We also have a **new church app** that you can download to your phone. This app gives you immediate access to the church's calendar, sermons, podcasts, blogs, special music, social media, and more. It is awesome to have at your fingertips! Now it's very easy to listen to what you missed on Sunday as you jog or drive in your car. To download the app: If you have an iPhone, go to the App Store and search for "First Christian Lawrence." If you use an Android phone, go to Google Play and search for "First Christian Lawrence." Download and use. It's free!



For the Kingdom,

David W Pendergrass, Ph. D.
Senior Pastor

CHURCH WIDE NEWS

Baptism

Jesus is still changing lives! In the last several months, God has been doing some wonderful new things in the life of Susan Dickson. She wanted to demonstrate her new commitment to Him. She had never had a baptism motivated by her faith in Jesus. So, on August 21, she declared to the world and to God that she is His disciple. 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.



Regional Minister Paxton is Retiring

By now, if you're serving in a congregation, you should have received a letter from Regional Moderator Dick Swisher announcing my retirement at the end of the year. For some of you, well, surprise!!! My involvement with the region started as I answered a seemingly innocent phone call from Celia Birt, then the region's Executive Secretary, in February of 1981. NE District Minister Lloyd Cox, she said, wondered if I'd be willing to represent the district on the region's Committee on Licensed Ministry. "What's involved?" I asked. "Oh, meeting with the committee a couple of times a year," she said. "Sure, I can do that," I naively replied, not realizing that position also put me on the regional board.

Thus began what has become a 35-year odyssey of service to and ministry with the Kansas Region. I have been privileged during the intervening years to fill a variety of roles and undertake numerous responsibilities under the steady guidance and careful mentoring of dedicated staff members such as Lloyd Cox, Jim Hartley, Richard Guentert, Karen FrankPlumlee, Ralph Smith, and Patsie Sweeden – to name only a few. I have been blessed to collaborate with many saints of the church – laity and clergy, in congregational, regional and general settings – who have become as much like “family” as friends in the faith.

Though initially I ran long and hard in the other direction, I have never been more honored nor proud of anything I have done than of being a ‘preacher’ like my Daddy. The pinnacle of that service truly has been the past 9+ years as your Regional Minister and President. But I will be 67 on my next birthday and, after 41+ years of ordained ministry, it is time for me to retire. Throughout my life, God has led (sometimes pushed) me in different and surprising directions. This frankly is another one of them, but I can hardly wait to see what God has planned for me next. Thank you, my friends, for the blessings you have bestowed on my life.

Grace and peace,
Pax

**Be sure to send Paxton an email of appreciation of his service to the DOC and FCC these last several years:

pjones@kansasdisciples.org

WORSHIP MINISTRY NEWS

August has been a strong month for the Worship Ministry at FCC. The Worship Team and I are excited about what we have accomplished, and are anticipating the future of our Ministry.

Welcome Desk - We are excited about the Welcome Area, as well as the Welcome Desk that you see on your way into the Sanctuary. I believe that the Welcome Desk has been, and will be a powerful tool to get guests and members plugged in to different ministries at FCC. In addition, the Welcome Desk will house resources, answers to questions, and valuable connections to strengthen your relationship with Christ. If you would like to volunteer behind the Welcome Desk for a few minutes before/after the service you attend, please email me at matthew@fcclawrence.org.

Food and Fellowship Event Recap - On the evening of Wednesday, August 24th, the Worship Team participated in a Food and Fellowship event held in the Fellowship Hall. We were able to take time out to have a casual meal together before the school year kicks into high gear. It was a great opportunity for me to thank the team for what they do, and get excited for what is to come in the near future! We chatted about what Advent Season, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day services could look like this year at FCC. We are excited about these Worship opportunities, and anticipating celebrating the birth of Christ through excellent programming.

Most Valuable Player - Tech: Jon Lofhouse. Jon has been a valuable part of our Worship Team, serving in the back on the Sound Board. Jon is an Engineering student at KU, so his approach towards mixing live sound is a precise and technical one. I have enjoyed getting to know Jon and am sad that he's relocating to Overland Park. Yet, I am excited for him to find a new church home through his move. Please join me in thanking Jon for his service to FCC, and praying for him through his Christian journey.

My prayer every Sunday is that the Worship meets you exactly where you are. Allow music speaking of grace, goodness, power, and love be your strength this week.

Matthew Mulnix, Modern Worship Leader



Do you like to sing? Whether you're a shower soloist or just like to sing along in the car, we'd love to have you sing with the choir. Time commitment is minimal is an hour (or so) on Thursday evenings and arrive a little early on Sunday mornings. That's it! Don't think you sing that well? That hasn't stopped the rest of us! We do it for the fun of it!

Here's our Top Five reasons for joining the choir:

5. No auditions or solos required!
4. People who are involved in music live longer and are healthier. Singing is a great way to relax and it's good for your health. Singing exercises your heart and lungs, and releases endorphins making you feel good!
3. From St. Augustine: "To Sing is to pray twice!"
2. It's a great group to be a part of! We sing, pray, laugh, and occasionally eat together.
1. Serving the Lord—considering all He does for us, it's just a little giving back to HIM!

Just come to rehearsal on Thursday, September 8, at 7pm in the Sanctuary. Sunday warm-up is at 8:30 in the choir room. See you there!



For more information, contact Max (mmayse56@gmail.com or 331-5900) or Judy (dennis.chadwick@gmail.com or 749-3396)

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Greetings Church

I am incredibly excited about what has been happening with FCC Youth. We had just wrapped up our Hindsight Wisdom series going over the wisdom provided by Qohelet in Ecclesiastes. Our students learned that everything is fleeting and God alone is eternal. Our students also learned that true joy comes only from God and that we should strive to seek after that joy that comes from God. God is moving in our students. Our students are questioning and seeking. God is reorienting their desires and it is incredible to see it happening.



Just last week, we had a Back to School Pizza Party at South Park. We had a lot of students come to eat pizza, watermelons, and pop! We played lots of fun games such as Ultimate Frisbee and Disney Movie Trivia Challenge. On the same day as the party, we launched the new school year with a brand new series called The Kingdom. We will be going over the things that Jesus promises to deliver and provide in the Kingdom of God. We are beyond excited to see what God can do through this series.

A few fun things are happening at FCC Youth. First, with the start of a new school year comes the KU football season. We sell our parking spots on KU home games to raise funds for our students as they look to go on fun and life-changing trips in the summer months! Please be praying for us as we sell our parking spots and seek to see lives impacted and changed among the local people of Lawrence by the power of God!

We will be having a Fall Retreat coming this fall! We will be spending a day serving with local compassion ministries in Lawrence and spend time together sharing about our experiences and life as we sit around a campfire that evening! More details will be coming soon on our Bulletin so please be watching out for more information.

Please pray for us as we seek to make relationships with our local communities to share the saving grace of Jesus!

Kiyun Lee
Pastor of Youth & Children

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

It is absolutely incredible to see the love that our children have for Jesus. FCC Kids is going through the different stories that Jesus told while he was here on Earth. Our kids have been learning about the loving kindness of God and what it means to invest in our talents to make an impact on our friends and family for the Kingdom. We are about half way through the stories of Jesus, and we will be moving on to talking about some of the characteristics of animals and how God wants us to be like them. For example, we will be talking about how ants are such diligently working animals, and God wants us to be diligent in the things that we do like homework and play time. We are so excited to see how God can move in the hearts of our kids as we learn about how God wants us to become like Him.



Other than what we are learning, we are so excited about all of the events that are coming up in the next two months. In the month of September, we will have two events that will be so much fun that you will not want to miss them.



1. Our first event will be on September 9th at 6 PM. We will meet at the church to watch a movie. There will be popcorns, snacks, and activities that your kids will love. We will watch Inside Out and discuss about how God views sadness and joy in our life. This event will happen at The Pit of our church building. It is the basement of our building where the youth group will meet.

2. Our second event will be on September 18 at 6 PM. We will partner with the Giving Tree Preschool to hold an ice cream social for all of our families. Anyone is welcome. There will be activities set up on different tables as families spend time together having a blast over ice cream. We are so excited about this event! This event will happen at our church parking lot unless the weather is bad. If the weather is bad, we will move to our Fellowship Hall.



Please pray for us as we seek God and how he commands us to live and love. We are having a lot of fun.

Kiyun Lee, Pastor of Youth & Children

THE GIVING TREE PRESCHOOL NEWS

The halls and classrooms of The Giving Tree have come to life over the last few weeks! We have had a great start to our school year. The children are so excited when we open the doors to start the day. Many of them just don't understand why the fun has to end when it is time to go home. They are busy making new friends, enjoying music & movement, doing art projects, learning letters and numbers, exploring centers and hearing Bible stories.



Each day begins with singing the song, "My God Is So Big"! This has been part of The Giving Tree opening circle for many years. We have current parents, who are also Giving Tree alumni, who remember singing this when they attended the preschool. Our awesome preschool, the greatest place on the planet, continues to bless all those who enter. There is nothing better than being able share that our God is so amazing!

I am truly thankful to be working alongside such wonderful teachers and volunteers. Thank you Ms. Donna, Ms. Mikayka, Ms. DeAnna and Ms. Stephanie. Please be in prayer for a wonderful school year rich in academic, social & spiritual growth. We truly appreciate the support of the congregation of FCC!



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



STEWARDSHIP

Exciting things are happening here at First Christian! September is here, school is back in session, we look forward to new opportunities of growth through small groups and new bible studies. Pastor David has been leading us through what a healthy church looks like, and the staff has been working hard to spruce up the church to make it a more inviting and welcoming place for guests. Matthew is working with new musicians along with the choir and lay leaders to provide a wonderful worship experience each Sunday morning. Kiyun is excited and working hard to establish new programming for the Youth and Children's ministry. In order to stay current with our communication efforts, we now have a new church logo, a revised website, new signage and a new Church App. We want to be able to reach those who are searching and to continue to be a place where those who are hurting and lost can find refuge: a place where God can use people to change lives! This is all made possible through your generous giving and numerous memorial and estate gifts.

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 July 2016. We are showing a net loss of \$15,165. At the end of July we should be at 58% of the budget, income is at 52% and expenses at 56%. The Unified Budget includes contribution income only and operating expenses and church support for Missions and Outreach.

Unified Budget thru July 2016

YTD Income	\$ 217,675.00
YTD Expense	\$ 232,840.00
YTD Net Income/(Loss)	\$ (15,165.00)

Lisa Hoag, Business Administrator

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sep 1	PATH Women's Bible Study
Sep 3	PeaceMakers
Sep 5	Prayer Shawl Ministry
Sep 6	PATH Cub Scouts Elder's Meeting Lydia Ladies
Sep 7	Ruth CWF CAFT Jr & Sr High Youth Worship Team Practice
Sep 8	PATH Women's Bible Study JOY

Sep 9	Fantastic 4th & 5th Graders
Sep 12	PeaceMakers
Sep 13	PATH Cub Scouts Children's Advisory Team
Sep 14	CAFT Jr & Sr High Youth Worship Team Practice
Sep 15	PATH Women's Bible Study Youth Advisory Team
Sep 18	Children Ice Cream Social
Sep 19	Trustee's Meeting
Sep 20	PATH Cub Scouts

Sep 21	CAFT Jr & Sr High Youth Kid's Group Worship Team Practice
Sep 22	PATH Women's bible Study
Sep 23	Fantastic 4th & 5th Graders
Sep 27	PATH Cub Scouts
Sep 28	CAFT Jr & Sr High Youth Worship Team Practice
Sep 29	PATH Women's Bible Study

MISSIONS NEWS FROM SWANSON FAMILY

Dear All,

We thank you for your prayers, encouragement and support as we continue on here as Mexico Branch SIL/Wycliffe members supporting Bible translation into the indigenous languages of Mexico (currently 60 languages are in the process of being translated).

These past two weeks, we were able to fly standby (about half price) to spend time with our kids while in Virginia (Melissa with Rachel) and in Wisconsin (All of us, minus Rachel). We were blessed to have temporary places to sleep and transportation in all locations provided by family and friends. We had a relaxing time for 5 days at the Thomsen family lakeside cottage in Wisconsin. The R&R time there was what we all needed the most...a time to catch our breaths, debrief about our year apart and cast vision for the future.

During our time in the U.S., we learned that Melissa's father, Paul Penny (age 91), suffered a stroke. He was picking apples when he noticed an inability to grasp things in his right hand. That has remained his only symptom for which he is getting therapy. Thankfully, Melissa's two brothers live with her parents and have been helping with setting up appointments, transportation to appointments, medications, etc. They were also greatly blessed to receive meals from the church family. My dad is the main cook for the foursome, so this was a huge blessing to him and he enjoyed every bite!

Megan begins her journey back to Asia today and arrives very early Tuesday morning (our time). Please pray for her travel and continued need for support as she continues on as an ESL teacher.

Ed continues to monitor security and manage Center maintenance, while Melissa administrates the annual Basic Writers' Workshop for mother-tongue speakers for the next 3 weeks. Ryan begins his senior year of high school tomorrow after a fun-filled summer working at a camp in Montana.

A couple of needs: We continue to save toward a car to purchase and use during our furlough next summer/fall in the U.S. Melissa also is in need of a quality camera she can use for ongoing Branch video and PR (still photo) projects.

Pray for us all to keep our focus on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. Pray we will boldly take the opportunities God places before us to share the message of hope to those who do not yet believe.

By His Grace,

Ed and Melissa
(and Ryan)

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH



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(785) 843-0679 • office@fcclawrence.org

Traditional Worship 9 AM • Modern Worship 11 AM

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Get Connected

Social Media

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

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