

First Christian Church News

August 2016

Hello Church Family!

Jesus told us to “make disciples” by leading them to repentance and baptism, and “teaching them to obey everything” that He commanded (Matt 28:19-20). Obeying “everything” Jesus taught is a tough commandment! Even though it’s tough, it’s imperative to obey what our Lord has commanded. Obeying everything Jesus taught is much more manageable when I remember a few things:

First, *even Jesus “increased” or “grew” over time (Luke 2:52)*. If Jesus “increased” in wisdom and stature over time, then surely it’ll take some time for me to grow into the image of Christ (Rom. 8:29). If Jesus can learn things in His life (e.g., Heb. 5:8), then it means I shouldn’t expect to be where I want to be overnight.

Second, *acting and thinking like Jesus is a process of growth*. We move from acting less like Jesus to acting more like Jesus. We move from thinking like the world to thinking more like Jesus. This is assumed throughout Paul’s letters. Paul knew that our faith is supposed to grow (e.g., 2 Cor. 10:15; Eph. 4:15-16). Paul says it articulately to the churches in Asia Minor:



“I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you spiritual wisdom and revelation in your growing knowledge of him, —since the eyes of your heart have been enlightened—so that you may know what is the hope of his calling, what is the wealth of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the incomparable greatness of his power toward us who believe, as displayed in the exercise of his immense strength” (Eph. 1:17-19 NET).

Moreover, Peter prays that his congregations “grow in the rich knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord!” (2 Pet. 1:2) and encourages them to “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Pet. 3:18 NET).

Third, *God is right in the midst of our growth*. Paul stated explicitly that it is “God who causes the growth.” (1 Cor. 3:7 NET) To the Christians at Colossae, Paul prays that God will “fill you with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ...” (Col. 1:9-12 NET).

Finally, *we can prohibit our growth*. It’s our fault. Paul was upset with the Christians at Corinth because they were “infants in Christ,” or “people of the flesh” (1 Cor. 1:3). When he was in their churches, Paul couldn’t teach them what he wanted because they were still acting like pagans, driven by dissension and jealousy. Paul told them, “I fed you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready. In fact, you are still not ready, for you are still influenced by the flesh. For since there is still jealousy and dissension among you, are you not influenced by the flesh and behaving like unregenerate people?” (1 Cor. 3:2-3 NET) The author of Hebrews makes a very similar complaint to his church(es): “For though you should in fact be teachers by this time, you need someone to teach you the beginning elements of God’s utterances. You have gone back to needing milk, not solid food. For everyone who lives on milk is inexperienced in the message of righteousness, because he is an infant. But solid food is for the mature, whose perceptions are trained by practice to discern both good and evil” (Heb. 5:12-14 NET). What would these authors say about you? Should you be farther along than you are? If so, why are you still an infant?

How is your growth coming? Do you speak to people like Jesus? Do you think like Jesus? Do you treat every person, even your enemies, like Jesus? Is your demeanor like Jesus? Are your values like Jesus? If you’re not where you want to be, don’t be discouraged. Don’t give up!

At FCC, there are numerous ways to help you grow. We emphasize the need to WORSHIP God as a community and in our personal lives; GROW in our faith as we gather in growth groups and practice personal disciplines to help us connect deeply with God; CARE for one another so that no one has need; and SERVE those who consider FCC home through our ministries, as well as serve those beyond the walls of the church through local and global ministries.

For the Kingdom,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'David'.

David W Pendergrass, Ph. D.
Senior Pastor

CHURCH WIDE NEWS

TRAFFICKING: THE MODERN DAY SLAVERY



- Human trafficking, a modern form of slavery, is the fastest growing and second-largest criminal industry in the world.
- Over 83 percent of human trafficking involves domestic victims from the United States, and the majority of these victims are children.

The Lawrence Anti-Trafficking Taskforce and Education (LATTE) Association will host meeting to discuss this problem at The Lawrence Public Library Auditorium, 707 Vermont St, August 3rd from 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM. The event is free to the general public. Light refreshments will be provided. Join the cause! For more information, contact Jean Bonner: jbonner@sunflower.com

Get Encouraging Texts

We now have the capacity to do it! However, we can't sign you up. You have to do it. On your phone, you text the words First Christian to the phone number 69922. That's it! You'll know it works when you receive an instant message back that says you were successful! You can get off the list at any time by texting the word STOP.

Congregational Meeting

Aug 7 @ 4 PM, we will have an all church congregational meeting to discuss our exciting plan and vision for the future that God has for us.

Family Promise

First Christian and Velocity Church work together once each quarter to provide volunteers to feed and house the families from Family Promise, an organization committed to serving homeless families in our community. If you can bring part of a meal or spend an evening while they spend the week at First Christian August 21-28, it would be great! Go to Tinyurl.com/h2ybfod to volunteer.

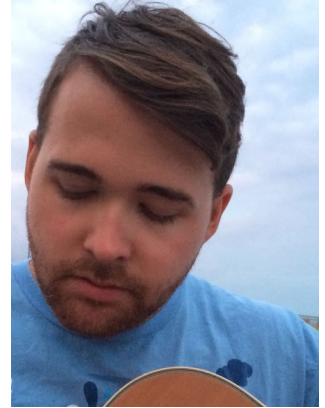
WORSHIP MINISTRY NEWS

A Strong July!

The members of FCC work as the body of Christ to accomplish great things. I have seen this exemplified in many ways over the month of July. I am truly blessed to be a part of this community of believers, and hope that you find that same sense of belonging through your involvement at First Christian.

Youth Mission Trip 2016

I was able to join Kiyun Lee, Volunteers, and the FCC Youth on the 2016 Youth Mission Trip in Kansas City. Every night after we served the community through volunteering, I had the opportunity to lead the youth in worship through song. It was a successful week that I was glad to be a part of!



Choir Starts Up in September!

First Rehearsal: Thursday, September 8th at 6:30 P.M.

First Service: Sunday, September 11th at 9:00 A.M.

Email Judy Chadwick any questions about our FCC Choir. dennis.chadwick@gmail.com

Offertories in July, thank you!

Tandy Reussner and Judy Chadwick - "Battle Hymn of the Republic"

Macy and Tate Landes - "In the River"

Jane Garvin, Nancy Smith, and Judy Chadwick - "Let there be Peace on Earth"

Genee Figuierras - "How Great Thou Art"

Matthew Mulnix - "10,000 Reasons"

Want to bring a special music piece to our services? Email Matthew Mulnix or Judy Chadwick to set a date.

Traditional Service Leadership

A committee of lay leaders met on July 5th to discuss leadership over the Traditional Services. In light of timing, budget, and other logistics, the committee came to the conclusion of moving forward with our current leaders of the Traditional Service. This simply means that the people who have been leading are doing a great job, and would like to continue in their service. A search for one hired individual may be picked back up in October, if the committee finds it necessary. If you have any questions, please contact Matthew Mulnix or Judy Chadwick, and we would be happy to answer them!

Most Valuable Players

Band: Edward Rah

Edward is a Sophomore college student from Torrance, California. He came to KU to study Korean over the 2016 summer semester. Mr. Rah visited FCC after searching throughout Lawrence for a contemporary service style. Edward was able to play on the Worship Team several times in July. Serving on bass guitar and Cajon box drum, his attitude and willingness was second to none. Please continue to pray over Edward's Christian journey as he heads back to California for the fall semester.

Tech: Hugh Rundell

I have enjoyed getting to know Hugh over my first two months at FCC. Learning about his job, volunteer work, and passions in his life has been a treat. Hugh always has my back on Sunday mornings, making sure everything sounds great and executed on an amazing level. Thank you for what you do, Hugh!

Save the Date

Have an interest in participating in the worship ministry on Sunday mornings?

The Traditional and Modern Service Team, including Tech, Worship Team, Choir, and Musicians, are having a time of fellowship and food on Wednesday, August 22nd at 6:30 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall, we'll have salad, pizza, and dessert. At 7:00, we'll talk song selection, goals, and any ideas you have for our Worship Ministry. At 7:30, we'll fellowship! It's a casual get together, so feel free to bring family or friends! I am looking forward to it, and hope you can make it!

Matthew Mulnix, Modern Worship Leader
matthew@fcllawrence.org

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Dear Church,

It has been an amazing month here for FCC Youth! So many things happened. Youth went to Kansas City for almost a week to work with compassion ministries such as the Harvesters, City Union Mission, and the Upper Room. Our students had an amazing time working in Kansas City. We packed food packages for the homeless and had kids, who were learning how to read through the Upper Room, read to us. Those kids noticed that some of our students had white arm hairs and started calling them polar bear for the rest of the week. It was pretty funny. Overall, God was moving in and through us during this trip. The trip brought the students together and impacted many kids who would otherwise be neglected. Our students committed to a life of Scripture and service.



Other than the trip, God has been moving in FCC Youth. God is changing lives and it is so evident! Right now, FCC Youth is in the middle of a teaching series called “Hindsight Wisdom”. This series is a four-week series discussing four major themes that come out of the Book of Ecclesiastes. Before this series, there was a stand-alone teaching about the two fundamental desires of humanity. The first of which is the desire to belong somewhere/be loved, and the second is the desire to be significant. Many students realized that these two desires can only be fulfilled through Jesus and the community of Jesus, and many of our students are committing to a life that loves God and intentionally loves others.

We are excited about what will happen in the few months at FCC Youth! School is coming back within a month! Therefore, we will have a Back To School Pizza Party in August at a park on the day when most of our students go back to school. More info will be in the bulletin. We are excited for potential relationships and the number of lives that might be impacted by the Gospel! Also, after our “Hindsight Wisdom” series, we will be launching our fall semester with a new series that covers the teachings of Jesus. We are incredibly excited about how God can move and change lives through our FCC Youth activities!

Please pray for us as we enter the month where we transition back to school. Also pray for us as we seek the presence of God and hope to be changed by Him everyday.

CHILDREN’S MINISTRY NEWS

It has been an incredible month working with the children at First Christian Church! The children are amazing and are all a bundle of fun to be with. We are excited about what has been happening in the last few weeks at our Sunday Bible Study! Currently, we are going through a 13 week curriculum on the stories that Jesus told. In the last two weeks, we studied two of the three stories that Jesus told in Luke 15. We have been using a lot of our imagination in the last two weeks as we used pop tabs as coins. We learned that God hates losing things and rejoices greatly when he finds us. He is so loving and kind that he forgives us of any mistakes that we did.

We have started to implement a little music session of our own. I bring a guitar to our room and play a few songs that are fun and engaging. The children really enjoy dancing to the tune of “Father Abraham”! God is definitely moving within our children! I am so excited to see how God will change the lives of our children in the future!

We have exciting events coming up for our children! The first event will be partnered with the Giving Tree Preschool as we will combine our resources to hold an ice-cream social for our families! This event will be on September 18th from 6:00 to 7:30 PM! Everyone is invited! If you know any families that might be interested in coming, please invite them. It will be an amazing time! We will also have a movie night for all children. We will watch a movie and discuss how the Bible speaks to the movie we have just watched. I am really excited for this event as I hope our children will learn that a piece of God is in every culture and can be displayed in a movie too! The details on this event have not been finalized. When they are, they will be posted in our bulletin on Sunday mornings.

THE GIVING TREE PRESCHOOL NEWS

July was a great time to have our Splish Splash summer camp! The water activities helped to keep us cool in the hot Kansas weather. We enjoyed spraying water bottles, pretended to “paint” the building with water, had fun with bubbles and chalk and explored ice. We also learned about several animals that live in the water. Thank you Ms. Donna, Ms. Mikayla and Ms. DeAnna for helping to make the week a huge success!



Now that August is upon us, the start of school is just around the corner. We are looking forward to a wonderful year at The Giving Tree Preschool. Our parent meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 4th. School begins throughout the week of August 14th. It is a joy to see the excitement on the children’s faces as they learn new things and meet new friends. It is truly a blessing to share God’s love through Bible stories, scripture and music in such a loving environment. Thank you for your prayers and support as we prepare for a fantastic year!

Julie Hafenstine, The Giving Tree Preschool Director



The Giving Tree Preschool has a few openings available for the upcoming school year. Please contact Julie at 843-0679 or julie@fcclawrence.org to schedule a tour.

STEWARDSHIP

We are so thankful for all who give to the ministries of First Christian. We are 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, and a place where God can use people to change lives! With your gifts and time we are able to provide food through our food pantry, meals through LINK, and household items through the Helping Hands closet. Because you give we can maintain a wonderful facility for children to attend preschool, for new Christians to be baptized, for bible studies, for recovery groups to meet, for couples to get married, families to welcome 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 be a place and a people that God can use to change lives!

Below we have provided the year-to-date totals for the Unified Budget at the end of June 2016. We are showing a net loss of \$16,459. At the end of June we should be at 50.00% of the budget, income is at 44.52% and expenses at 48.51%.

During the summer months giving tends to go down, with vacations and family gatherings, etc. Please consider, keeping your giving consistent 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.

We will soon be launching a new app for your cell phone! You will be able to access sermons, general church information along with the ability to give directly from your phone!

Unified Budget thru June 2016

YTD Income	\$ 183,439.00
YTD Expense	\$ 199,898.00
YTD Net Income/(Loss)	\$ (16,459.00)

Lisa Hoag, Business Administrator

UPCOMING EVENTS

Aug 1 Prayer Shawl Ministry
Aug 2 PATH
 Elder's Meeting
 Lydia Ladies
Aug 3 Ruth CWF
 CAFT
 Jr & Sr High Youth
 Worship Team Practice
Aug 4 PATH
 GT Parent Night
Aug 6 Sew N Sews
Aug 7 Services 9am & 11am
 Seekers
 Women Together
Aug 8 Sew N Sews

Aug 9 PATH
Aug 10 CAFT
 Jr. Sr. High Youth
Aug 11 PATH
 JOY (Just Older Youth)
Aug 14 Services 9am & 11am
 Seekers
 Women Together
Aug 15 Trustee's Meeting
Aug 16 PATH
Aug 17 CAFT
 Jr. & Sr. High Youth
Aug 18 PATH

Aug 21 Services 9am & 11am
 Seekers
 Women Together
Aug 21-28 **Family Promise**
Aug 23 PATH
Aug 24 CAFT
 Jr. & Sr. High Youth
Aug 25 PATH
Aug 28 Services 9am & 11am
 Seekers
 Women Together
Aug 30 PATH
Aug 31 CAFT
 Jr. & Sr. High Youth

MISSIONS NEWS FROM SWANSON FAMILY

Hi Everyone!

We are still here in Mexico plugging away at our various responsibilities. This summer we find ourselves without children while Ryan spends the summer at a camp in Montana. Thank you to those who are praying for him this summer.

The teachers' union continues to block roads entering in and out of Oaxaca. This has affected us and those we serve in minor ways so far. We are glad that even though tensions run high, there have not been any significant confrontations recently since the original report we sent out a few weeks ago.

In some of the international stores, like this Sam's Club, there has been evidence that trucks carrying supplies have been kept out of Oaxaca. But on the same day, this national store was fully stocked. Two weeks later, Sam's Club was back up and fully stocked. So it all depends on whether or not trucks are allowed to pass by the blockaders. The blockades have also affected workshop attendance. Only 2 students made the trip to the current Literacy Principles workshop.

A few weeks ago, only about one third of about 18 students were able to travel to the Biblical Key Terms workshop. However, another workshop, called the "Diplomado," is currently happening in another state outside of Oaxaca. We are happy to report that 60 students are attending this workshop. The Diplomado lasts a full month and covers many aspects of both translation and literacy.

We praise the Lord for...

- A place to stay with Ed's mother while in the U.S. She is also generously allowing us to use her car while we are there. Megan has the same benefits for most of her time in the U.S.
- A great group of people who have invested with us in this ministry in Mexico. (Pray for God to use the video to raise up more missionary workers.)
- 98% of our support quota has been met these past 12 months; even with the blockades, we are not lacking.
- Our car fund continues to grow. We have received some special gifts and have been able to set aside a portion of these gifts towards our car savings. Currently we have \$3350 in savings!

Pray for...

- Affordable seats to occupy as we fly standby. Ryan will be joining us on the return trip.
- Megan to be able to return to Asia fully supported with the same benefits we experience: people that also pray for and encourage her.
- Rachel. Melissa hopes to go a little early to spend a few days with Rachel in Virginia. She misses her family.
- Ryan, to grow in his relationship with the Lord and influence others to follow Him.
- Paul. Working 12-14 hour night shifts is, well, work. Pray he can get past this first year and still manage to have a life outside of work. He also has several annoying health issues. Pray for healing.
- Wisdom for Ed and the security team as they continue to monitor things here in Oaxaca.
- Peace in Oaxaca between the government, police and teachers.

For the people of Mexico...

Ed and Melissa Swanson



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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](https://twitter.com/fcclawrenceks)
- [Instagram @fcclawrenceks](https://www.instagram.com/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.

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