

First Christian Church News

June 2016

“We wait for the LORD; he is our deliverer and shield. For our hearts rejoice in him, for we trust in his holy name. May we experience your faithfulness, O LORD, for we wait for you.” (Ps. 33:20-22 NET) While it’s certainly difficult to be patient sometimes, I’m sure glad we waited on God’s timing for the new staff arrivals! You’ll see that God is doing some great things here at FCC. He’s assembling a committed, talented group of staff to help lead and serve FCC! Inside, you’ll see and read more about them. I’m excited for you to get to know them more. While you read about them, would you pray for them? Coming into a new position presents all kinds of challenges (as I have recently experienced, being new here!). So, please pray for them during this transition. We want God’s Spirit to guide them and comfort them as they acclimate to what God is doing here at FCC.

Also, I want you to know that God is doing some incredible things in people’s lives. I hear it and see it all the time. God is still changing lives. People are coming off addictions; people are reading their Bibles more than ever before; marriages are being healed and strengthened; people’s prayer lives are increasing; and people are making new and renewed commitments to the teachings of Jesus. God is still changing lives. The Kingdom of God is breaking in through His people here. While it’s easy to be bombarded by pessimism and negative news, both in our world and sometimes, even in our church, I want you to know that God is on the move!

What about you? Is God working in your life? Are you allowing the Spirit to transform you into the image of His Son? Is your love for God and neighbor increasing? Is your prayer life stronger than it was before? What new habits do you need to commence to increase your discipleship? What habits do you need to stop? Today’s the day to get right with God. Confess your sin, place your trust in the risen Jesus, and start walking in faith. It’s not too late and you’re not too far away! Let me know how I can help you grow in your faith.

“Now to the one who is able to keep you from falling, and to cause you to stand, rejoicing, without blemish before his glorious presence, to the only God our Savior through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, power, and authority, before all time, and now, and for all eternity. Amen.” (Jude 1:23-25 NET)

For the Kingdom,



Senior Pastor

GIVING TREE UPDATE

As many of you know, Jackie Hostetler has accepted a position with the Baldwin School District and will be leaving the Giving Tree. Below is her letter that was sent a few weeks ago to the Giving Tree families explaining her departure.

Dear Precious Giving Tree Families,

I want to begin this letter by re-iterating the love I have for The Giving Tree and for each and every one of your children. The Giving Tree has been such a blessing for my family and me over the past few years. It is a bittersweet time as I inform you all that I will be moving on.

As most of you know, my family lives in Baldwin City. I got a call one afternoon two months ago informing me that there was an opening in the Baldwin Early Childhood Department. I was offered a position just last week. Please know that I was not actively looking for a job. Working in the early childhood department in Baldwin is truly the **only** scenario which could have pulled me away from The Giving Tree. Both of my little boys will be spending the next several years in this building, which is just minutes from my home. I couldn't say no. My ultimate dream was to stay at home with my kids, but that never worked out for our family--which has been wonderful in its own way. This is as close to that as I could possibly get and I consider it a huge blessing!

That being said it does break my heart to leave. I love Mikayla, Donna and Lisa so, as well as The Giving Tree and FCC—and, of course, all of you. I have never known such love from co-workers (who are really my best friends) and families in my life.

At this time, we aren't anticipating many changes for The Giving Tree. Miss Donna and Miss Mikayla will remain here to love, nurture and teach your children. The heart of The Giving Tree will always remain the same, focusing on our love for one another and Jesus's love for us. We don't foresee any changes in enrollment. If you've returned your registration for 2016-2017, you are assured a spot. We will also still be holding our summer camps.

I do ask for prayer as we move along in this process; prayer for The Giving Tree, prayer for our staff, prayer for our new director, prayer for our Giving Tree families, and prayer for my family. This is such an exciting time and we all have so much to look forward to!

God has perfect plans for The Giving Tree, as He always has. There is nothing my God cannot do!

With Love,

Miss Jackie

Thank you, Jackie, for all you have done at the Giving Tree Preschool. We will miss you and we wish you the very best!

And while this change is hard, we are very excited to announce our new Director of the Giving Tree Preschool, Julie Hafenstine!

I am excited to begin serving as the new Director of The Giving Tree Preschool at First Christian Church! I have lived in Kansas my entire life. My husband, Mark and I have will married for 23 years in July. We have two wonderful children, Brianna (19) and Ryan (16). My family means the world to me and we enjoy spending time together. We are longtime members of First Southern Baptist Church here in Lawrence. I graduated from Washburn University in 1995 with a Bachelor of Elementary Education and an area of concentration in Early Childhood. My career began by working for the Lawrence Public Schools as a paraprofessional and then a classroom teacher. After the birth of our first child, I set aside my career to focus on being a mom and that time flew by fast! Since 2006, I have enjoyed teaching preschool and have been blessed with the opportunity to build relationships with many families in our community. I look forward to what God has planned for The Giving Tree Preschool as we begin this new journey.

-Julie Hafenstine



During the summer, The Giving Tree will have two summer camps. Please be praying for the staff and the students during this time. Also be looking for an update in the next newsletter!

MINISTER OF CHILDREN & YOUTH UPDATE

Greetings Family!

First Christian Church's search for a Minister of Children & Youth has exciting news. After a year of reading resumes, conducting interviews, and praying, we have finally found a Minister of Children and Youth! His name is Kiyun Lee who recently graduated from North Central University in Minneapolis, MN with a Bachelors of Arts in Youth Ministry. During the interview process, he was able to meet some of the students, who asked him some tough questions, and everyone was very pleased with the conversations that were had. Kiyun will be starting on June 20. If you have any further questions, feel free to ask any of the team members:

Carolina Coleman
Cathy Hilliard

Matthew Johnston
Macy Landes

Sheri Penny
Mikayla Swart

Sandi Swisher

*Cheers,
Matthew Johnston*

Dear Church,

My name is Kiyun Lee and I am the new director for youth and children at First Christian Church. I am also a recent graduate of North Central University located in Minneapolis, MN, graduating with a degree in Youth Ministry and a minor in Greek. I chose this major because I wanted to be able to recreate a similar environment that completely changed my life. Up until the summer before my senior year in high school, I was not a follower of Jesus. I lived my life in search of something that was meaningful and fulfilling, but I sought out these things at the wrong places. I was invited to a youth group my junior year, when a local youth pastor was inviting students to their ministry while working as choreographers for our school musicals. Because of their invitation, I began attending Fusion Youth Ministry January of my junior year. I went because I liked them and told them I would come at least once. However I continued on attending because I really enjoyed the community aspect of Fusion. After my junior year, I was given the chance to go to the summer camp that Fusion attends every year. It was during this camp that God reached down to my heart and rekindled my desire for Him. I was a devoted follower of Jesus from this point on.

One of the most influential things that impacted my life after conversion was my youth group. The week that I gave my life to the Lord, Fusion became a family. We continually encouraged and challenged one another even after the spiritual high of the camp week had died down. Through this community, I grew tremendously in my journey with Jesus. It was because of this influential community that I decided to choose a career where I can hopefully recreate a similar environment for the upcoming generation. Therefore, I chose to acquire a youth ministry degree through North Central. I chose NCU because I felt the Lord was calling me over the cold tundra known as Minnesota. Having attended NCU for the last four years, I have gained a tremendous amount of wisdom and practical techniques, while also growing in my relationship with God. Having graduated college now, I am seeking to really impact the lives of the children and youth of the upcoming generation. With God's help, I hope to be obedient to His will and to accomplish His works through the families of First Christian Church. Thank you and I cannot wait to meet you all.

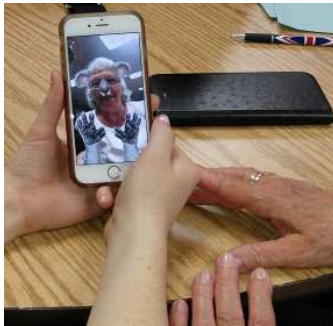
-Kiyun Lee



YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Tech. Night

A huge shout out of THANKS to all who participated in our first ever "Tech Night" in May! It was a wonderful time of learning between our youth group and elderly folks. We received positive feedback from the attendees that had various issues with cell phones, laptops, Facebook, etc. "What a blessing this youth group was to all of us," stated Colleen Ellis. Back atcha, Colleen! We plan to host another one soon, so be on the lookout for more information in the weekly bulletin.



I took my T-Mobile phone to the Tech Training to get some instructions on its use. The H.S. gal that worked with me was very helpful and patient. She and some others had I-Phones and they were much easier to use than my T-Mobile. I think I will now get an I-Phone (because I want the least complicated phone possible) I also have a new laptop that I will take to the Tech Training if they have another one.

-Jean Bonner-

Tech Night was a fun evening for me. There was a "mixer" to start the evening. A name of an object, personality, etc. was taped on our backs. Then we had to ask questions to determine "who we were". That broke the ice and helped us get acquainted. The youth were eager to help us "seniors". They were able to help me with my questions about Facebook. A repeat session would be terrific.

-Dorothy Congrove-

Tech Night was a great idea! I brought my laptop in, and Macy and Addie sat down and started working with me. I wanted help with Facebook, and they were able to answer nearly every one of my questions. Next I asked about the Google apps, and the girls showed me how they use the apps constantly. Now that I know more about Google apps, I'm looking forward to using them. I've already started using Facebook nearly every day.

These girls were fun to work with and delightful to get to know. I am looking forward to the next Tech Night when I plan to bring in my phone for more help while getting acquainted with more of our younger Christian friends. Thanks for having this for us!

-Linda Shirk-

More News

VBS is FAST approaching and many of our youth will be helping out again! It is the week of June 6th-10th in the evenings, 5:45 PM - 8:00 PM. If you're interested in helping and have not signed up, please contact Sandi Swisher at swizle98@yahoo.com. It's going to be a great time!

On May 11th, the youth group completed the decorating of our "Beverage Blessings" project. We'll be distributing water bottles with words of encouragement or scriptures on them in the downtown area sometime in June when the weather heats up. What a great way to spread the message of God's love. Happy Summer!

In Him,
Dana

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

Hello FCC!

Here are the list of events we are offering in June for the Children's Ministry. Be on the lookout for additional upcoming events as we welcome our new Minister of Children & Youth. I will also have this posted on our FCC Children's Ministry Facebook page. If you have any questions in regards to the events or the Children's Ministry at FCC, please feel free to contact me at 785-550-6594 or by email at swizle98@yahoo.com.

Note: Sunday school will not be offered throughout the Summer for Children's Ministry in order to give our Volunteers a much needed break. We will still offer activities for the Kids Upstairs during both Services as we have done over the last 4 years such as movie time, craft time, or game time throughout the Summer. The Nursery will still be open during both services as well.

We are looking forward to VBS this year as this will be the first time that FCC has hosted an evening VBS. I am happy to announce that we have lots of volunteers signed up to help. We will need items to be donated for VBS. Currently there is a short list of some items we need outside the Sanctuary with a tub to put the donations in. A full list of items needed will be emailed out soon as well as printed off and put outside the Sanctuary and up in the Children's Ministry area. We appreciate everyone's help with donations. Children will be learning about different countries around the world and how God loves us no matter who we are or where we live. We are all his Children and we are all United under God's love.



**Please sign your children up for VBS if you have not done so already. Early sign up deadline of May 15th to guarantee a T-Shirt for your child has passed. We ordered some extra T-Shirts that will be available for children until they are handed out.

Thanks,

Sandi Swisher and the Children's Ministry

Children's Ministry Schedule for Summer

June 5th	Movie Time	During Both Services
June 6th-10th	Ports of Call VBS	5:45-8:00 PM
June 12th	Kids will be singing/leading worship and will stay with parents in church	During Both Services
June 19th	Father's Day Craft Time & Playground Time	During Both Services
June 26th	Game Time	During Both Services



WORSHIP MINISTRY NEWS

Welcome Matthew!



Hello FCC Family,

My name is Matthew Mulnix, and it is a pleasure to introduce myself as the Modern Worship Leader at FCC Lawrence. I am delighted to have the opportunity to bring strong worship to our 11 A.M. services.

I have been involved in worship music for ten years, beginning in high school. My musical roots were formed in my hometown church, FCC of Bethany, MO. Through my involvement in the Disciples of Christ, I had the opportunity to lead alongside other high school students in the Northwest Area Praise Team.

While attending Missouri State University in Springfield, MO, I was the campus worship leader at the Baptist Student Union. I also held positions of musical leadership at Phillipsburg Presbyterian and River Bluff Fellowship during my collegiate years.

I am the oldest child of my wonderful parents, Allan and Corinna Mulnix. Allan is a farmer and rancher, growing crops and raising cattle around the Northwest Missouri area. Corinna is a retired public school teacher, who held positions in Preschool, 3rd grade, and 1st grade over the course of her career. My younger sister, Allison, is currently a Junior at William Jewell College in Liberty, MO. She is studying nursing, and currently works for North Kansas City Hospitals as a nurse tech.

I am happy to call FCC Lawrence my new church family, and look forward to meeting and getting to know you over the coming weeks and months.

Looking forward to a wonderful future of Christian service alongside you,

-Matthew Mulnix

Almighty God, who always moves with clarity of will and singleness of purpose, help me to live and work with certainty in an uncertain world. Light a lamp before me so that my feet do not stumble. Make my path clear so I may never wander from your chosen way. I pray in the name of Jesus who comes to make our way clear before our eyes. Amen.

ELDER'S REPORT

The past month has been very busy for the Elders. We appreciate your prayer, letters, emails, phone calls and texts. As most of you know, we have welcomed our new pastor (David Pendergrass) and family. We have hired Kiyun Lee as our Youth and Children Pastor. And we have hired a new director for the Giving Tree Preschool (Julie Hafenstine). And with all of these changes we have said goodbye to our Music Minister and his wife (Dan and Sarah).

Recently, the Elders, Pastor and Leadership Council participated in a two evening, six-hour-plus action-packed Visioning and Planning Workshop. The purpose was to discuss our church's future direction, formulate an action plan, and evaluate how we align with our Journey of Faith Document.

We are keenly aware that any suggested **"Change"** will be questioned, scrutinized and/or cause worry among our congregants. However, I am highlighting what we consider to be priorities. These priorities will help our church to continue moving along the path of our Journey of Faith Document.

We have empowered our staff to upgrade our church's digital footprint. In the future you will see changes to our Church Website. We will have a greater presence on social media. It is our attempt to connect with and attract many of the younger families that embrace this technology. We also are very aware that many of our older congregants rely on the non-electronic forms of communication. This will not go away; but, we hope to improve its format for easier delivery and readability.

We will be targeting areas in our church to enhance the **"Visitor Experience"**. You will be seeing new signage (for directions), visitor gift packages (that will help capture communication information for follow-up), more greeters and changes in the Narthex (redesigned seating, inviting colors and improved information desk area).

Coming this Summer, it is our desire to offer the following:

- Small group ministries
- Marriage Retreat
- Children and Youth Retreat and/or activities

We have also taken time to evaluate our church's interior worship areas. One of the areas we will be making improvements is the stage area. The changes you will see in this area are designed to open up the stage and make more room for our song leaders, band and stage productions. This might consist of repositioning our piano and communion table, adding some complementary colors (banners, carpets and etc.) and/or whatever the worship team deems will enhance our worship experience.

This is only small summary of our Planning and Visioning workshop. We will continue to keep our congregation informed. We ask for your prayers as we strive to **"Change Lives and make Disciples for Christ"**.

On behalf of the Elders...

Blessings,

James, Elders Chair

Want to speak to an Elder?

The role of our Elders at FCC is one of spiritual leadership and prayer. If a need arises in your life please feel free to contact the Elders at elders@fcclawrence.org.

STEWARDSHIP

Below you will find the YTD totals for the Unified Budget through the end of April. The month ended with net income of \$64 bringing the net loss for the year to \$5,792. At the end of April we should be at 33.33% of the budget, income was at 28.41% with expenses at 29.82%.

Unified Budget thru April 30, 2016

YTD Income	\$ 117,047
YTD Expense	\$ 122,839
YTD Net Income/(Loss)	\$ (5,792)

Review – Options of Giving

Cash or Check – Please make sure you identify yourself on the envelope or your check so FCC can provide a record for tax purposes. Your gifts can be placed in the weekly worship offering plate (envelopes are provided in the back of the pew) or they may be mailed to First Christian Church, 1000 Kentucky Street, Lawrence, Kansas 66044.

Online/Electronic Giving – Please visit our website and look for the “Give” button. This is a convenient, secure online system for debit card, credit card, or ACH Processing. You may set up recurring contributions or a one-time payment. To use this option you will first need to set up a login account. Please remember that when using a debit or credit card, a service fee of up to 3.50% will be charged to the church. There is an option to help offset that fee. You may also set up ACH processing which is a direct withdraw from your bank account. The fees for this service are minimal. If you don’t have access to a computer and would like to set up electronic giving, please see Lisa in the finance office for an authorization form. ***We are in the process of upgrading our online giving options. This new system will include a “church app” which will allow online giving, giving via text, access to the church website, sermons and other important information. Please watch for updates!***

Appreciated Stock – Stocks and other securities are a welcome gift. Some members have found the tax savings make this an ideal way to fulfill their commitment. For more information, contact Lisa in the Finance Office.

The Christian Church Foundation – The Christian Church Foundation helps support the future needs of our church through planned giving opportunities. If you would like to learn more about remembering First Christian in your will or with a planned gift, please contact Lisa in the finance office.

It is so important to make a commitment to return a portion of our financial blessings to God through our tithes and offerings. Hopefully these options will help make it easy to honor God in this way.

Every man shall give, as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God that he has given you.
Deuteronomy 16:17 (ESV)

OUTREACH NEWS

Justice Ministry Update

James Hilliard

Justice Matters' second Nehemiah Assembly took place on April 13th at the Lied Center. There were 22 congregations represented with 1,286 people present. Civic leaders in attendance included:

- City of Lawrence: Mayor Mike Amyx and Vice-Mayor Leslie Soden
- Douglas County: County Manager Craig Weinaug (Two of the three County Commissioners were invited and declined to attend)
- Lawrence Public Schools: Kevin Harrell and Jose Cornejo in Special Education and Cris Anderson, the Principal of Kennedy Elementary
- Jackie Counts, KU Center for Public Research & Partnership
- Carolyn Kelly, Kansas Head Start
- Anna Jenny, Douglas County Child Development Association, and Jenn Preston, Douglas County Health Department

Proposals for improvements around three major issues were presented:

1. Alternatives to Incarceration:

- Postponing the vote to expand the Jail until after a full study of alternatives have been completed - County Managers announced this the evening before the Nehemiah Assembly
- Adding a person with expertise on the intersection between race and the criminal justice system to the committee reviewing alternatives to incarceration - County Commissioners agreed the week after the Assembly to permit this additional member to the Council; the NAACP has proposed two candidates (both Professors at KU): (1) Chuck Epp from the School of Public Administration, and (2) Clarence Lang from the African-American Studies Department
- Hiring an independent consultant with a track record on identifying and implementing alternatives to incarceration - County Commissioners said the Council conducting the study can recommend who to hire; The Council has this item on their agenda in June

2. Childhood Trauma:

- Train 50 pre-school educators in skills to address childhood trauma at Head Start, Kennedy Elementary Pre-school, and pre-schools affiliated with the Douglas County Child Development Association - representatives from the relevant organizations agreed to seek funding and implement a year-long training called Trauma Smart during the next school year.
- Train 50 visiting nurses and childcare providers to address childhood trauma during family consultations - representatives from the relevant organizations agreed to seek funding and provide Lemonade for Life, a day long training during the next year.

3. Affordable Housing

- Put 1.5 million toward affordable housing in the 2017 City Budget - the City Attorney instructed the Mayor and Vice-Mayor to not answer this question specifically, but both agreed it would a focus of their work during the budget process.
- Prioritize affordable housing during the Capital Improvement Budgeting process to place 15 million toward affordable housing over the next 5 - 10 years (these funds are expected to leverage funds for a total of \$90,000,000 to erase the known need for housing) - the City Attorney instructed the Mayor and Vice-Mayor to not answer this question specifically, but both agreed it would a focus of their work during the budget process.
- Place a priority toward "transitional housing" for women fleeing domestic violence, re-entering the community after incarceration, those in recovery from mental illness hospitalization or drug addiction - Both the Mayor and Vice-Mayor agreed that this is a need and they will prioritize this need.

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

Family Promise

Pat Treff

FCC has had the privilege of joining Velocity Church to host two families at our church this week. We are prepared to welcome yet another family as I write this (we like to call it FFP: Flexible Family Promise). Our youngest guest, a cute 3 year old named Lucas has particularly enjoyed playing with the toys here. We appreciate the delicious meals and volunteer time that have been donated. Thank you from our guests!

Dr. Pendergrass's expanded translation of the Model Prayer from his sermon:

“Our Father who reigns from the Heavenly realm,
make your holiness be known throughout the Earth.

Bring your royal reign on all creatures,

so that Your will is done both in Heaven and throughout the Earth.

Give us what we need to live life each day as your disciples.

Help us be disciples who forgive others like you have forgiven us.

And do not test our faith [because we don't want to fail you];

Instead, rescue us from the evil that we do.”

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ruth CWF

June 1st

Ports of Call VBS

June 6th - 10th

FCC Serves LINK

June 12th

Giving Tree Summer Camp

June 13th - 17th

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

1000 Kentucky Street • Lawrence KS 66044

Telephone: (785) 843-0679

Office@fcclawrence.org • Fcclawrence.org

Sunday Worship

Traditional 9 am

Contemporary 11 am

Sunday Kids Bible Study 10:10 am

Facebook.com/firstchristianlawrence

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Get Connected

Social Media

- **Facebook.com/firstchristianlawrence**
- **Fcclawrence.org**
- *For more helpful resources for your spiritual growth, please visit: **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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