

First Christian Church News

July 2016

Hello Church Family!

Summer is in full swing! If you're like me, it's easy to allow the vacations, breaks, and even the heat to influence us to get out of our rhythm of studying our Bible, praying, going to church, and doing other spiritual disciplines. I encourage you to fight this temptation.

One of the chief spiritual disciplines a Christian must seek to master is what takes place in our mind. There are repeated encouragements and exhortations in the Bible to guard yourself from evil thoughts, especially since evil thoughts can lead us to sin. Paul tells the Christians at Colossae:



"Therefore, if you have been raised with Christ, *keep seeking the things above*, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. *Keep thinking about things above*, not things on the earth, for you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ (who is your life) appears, then you too will be revealed in glory with him. So put to death whatever in your nature belongs to the earth: sexual immorality, impurity, shameful passion, evil desire, and greed which is idolatry." (Col. 3:1-5 NET)

It's a spiritual discipline to have self-control in our own mind. Whether you're at home, the cinema, grocery store, or even at church, we Christians must follow Paul's exhortation to do our very best to *focus on the activity of the Kingdom of God*. This helps protect us from sinning. It is sure hard to sin when we're focusing on what God is doing through us during the day! What do you think about?

You'll notice that this newsletter is full of updates to events. It also includes stories of what God is doing in people's lives. It's an attempt to help you focus "about things above." Church is not a social club or institution just to provide for the poor: it is a living, breathing part of the Body of Christ. And Christ is still changing lives around the world, in Lawrence, and in this church! Two people became Christians last month, and I have strong reasons to believe that a few more are not far away. Jesus is changing lives here.

What do you think about? Do you focus more of your mental energy on "earthly" things? Do you focus on people who've made you angry? Gaining more money or security? Controlling the future? Negativity and gossip? Or, do you actively seek "the things above"? Are you on the look-out for what the Kingdom of God is doing in your midst, even in your own life?

Like Paul, I encourage you to make up your mind to focus on what God is doing, and not the "things on the earth." By doing so, you'll be set free! See you this Sunday with your friends that you're inviting!

David W. Pendergrass, Ph.D.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David".

Senior Pastor

THE GIVING TREE PRESCHOOL NEWS

I can't believe that June has come and gone! My first month at The Giving Tree Preschool has been very busy. I have enjoyed the opportunity to get to know the wonderful teachers and many of the preschool children and their families. Our June camp, Ooey Gooey Messy Fun, was a big success. It was truly a week full of messy fun for everyone!

We are looking forward to our July camp, Splish Splash. It will be a week full of activities to keep us cool as we explore water! We will have fun checking out float vs. sink, ice, catching some fish...not real of course! These are just a few of the many activities planned. I am sure we will have another exciting week.

Thank you so much for your warm welcome to FCC! I am blessed to be part of a preschool that has such positive support from the church congregation. It is equally exciting to see how God is working within the preschool. Watching a child's face light up as we sing and learn about God is truly rewarding!

Julie Hafenstein, Giving Tree Preschool Director



The Giving Tree Preschool is still accepting enrollment for the 2016-2017 school year. Please contact Julie at 843-0679 or julie@fcclawrence.org to schedule a tour!

WORSHIP MINISTRY NEWS

FCC Family,

I sincerely want to thank you for welcoming me into your house of worship with open arms. It was such a great honor to introduce myself to you on May 29th during the blended service. I have received such great feedback, and plan to continue in executing worship to the best of my abilities.

Most Valuable Players

In this reoccurring section, I want to highlight individuals who are crucial to the Worship Team at FCC. You might see them on stage singing, or in the back of the congregation making sure everything sounds amazing. These guys and gals execute Sunday service with a loving heart, a clear mind, and a skill set like no other.



Tech: Steve Nicolai

Steve is a talented, patient, and willing member of FCC. You might not see him, as he works behind the scenes in the Audio/Visual area of the Sanctuary during 9 A.M. services. Between recording the sermons, running sound, and helping out with any tasks, Steve is so crucial to the overall success of Sunday services.

Band: Lauren Douglass

Lauren has been such a huge help in my transition into the position of Modern Worship Leader at FCC. Through amazing communication, introducing me to the team, and giving me the rundown on all things worship, Lauren has "rocked it" since the word "go". On top of all this, she has been in the final stages of planning her beautiful wedding. Though her last name won't be "Douglass" for much longer, I will forever be thankful to Ms. Lauren for her willingness to serve during this transition time in the worship ministry at FCC.

Matthew Mulnix, Modern Worship Leader

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Greetings Church!

My name is Kiyun Lee and I am the new Pastor of Youth and Children here at First Christian Church. I have been working here for about a week by this point, and I have been enjoying every minute of it! Everyone has been incredibly welcoming and kind to me, and I wanted to take a moment to say thanks. I also wanted to highlight the past week that I've been here at Youth. It was a great time getting to know each other. We played a get-to-know-you game where we had to draw a picture that defined who we are. I drew a picture of three stick figures doing the K-State cheer and had three students reenact it (I know, teachin' em young). The funniest thing about it was the fact these students had no clue what I was having them do until it was too late! Overall, it was a fantastic first Wednesday here at FCC Youth.



I want to announce some really awesome events that are coming up for our youth ministry! The first event is our mission trip that will take place during July 10-14. We will head to Kansas City to work with compassion ministries such as Upper Room, Harvesters, and City Union Mission. We will be hosted by Country Club Christian Church while we are there. I am really excited for this trip for a few reasons. The first reason why I am excited, is this trip will be a great opportunity for me to get to know the students here at FCC Youth. The second reason is, by partnering with these ministries, we get to take part in advancing the Kingdom. Please pray for us as we are in Kansas City. We appreciate you guys!



The second event is the Family Picnic that will take place on Saturday, July 23rd. This event will be an opportunity for us leaders to get to know the families that are part of FCC Youth. We are really excited for the relationships that will be made and the lives that can be transformed through these newly found relationships.

Thank you so much for your support and love for our church and especially for our students! It is definitely encouraging and comforting knowing that you will support us in so many ways!

Kiyun Lee, Pastor of Youth & Children

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

Hello church!

I am so very excited to be working with the children here at First Christian Church. I had a great first day of Sunday School this past week as we went over how Jesus is our good shepherd, and he cares for us individually. Not only that, we also had a fantastic Vacation Bible School! The theme of this year's VBS was Ports of Call. We learned about how God loves all of us even when we are from different regions, race, and ethnicities. We had VBS in the evening for the first time this year and we had a great turnout. We even had a family exclaim how impressed they were with our volunteers. They were impressed that our volunteers were full of both youth students and adults; the kids really loved these volunteers. God is definitely on the move with the children here at First Christian Church. I am very excited to see what is to come. As I have heard from a song, "the best is yet to come!"

We are excited to announce that we will be implementing a new security system in the Children's Ministry. From now on, when the children are checked in, both parents and children will receive a sticker with a random number. This will be designated to the parent who will pick up their child after the service is done. Just like you, we care about the safety of your children. This new security system is a measure to get rid of any situations that could potentially compromise the safety of our children. Thank you for your love and commitment for your children. They have been great so far!

We are now on a 13 week journey of discussing each parables of Jesus. I am super excited to be on this journey, and I am sure the children are too! I am excited that our children will learn about God. It is our hope that our children will come to rest in the truth that they are loved by God.

Due to the VBS that took place last month, there will be no special events for the month of July.

Thanks,
Kiyun Lee, Pastor of Youth & Children



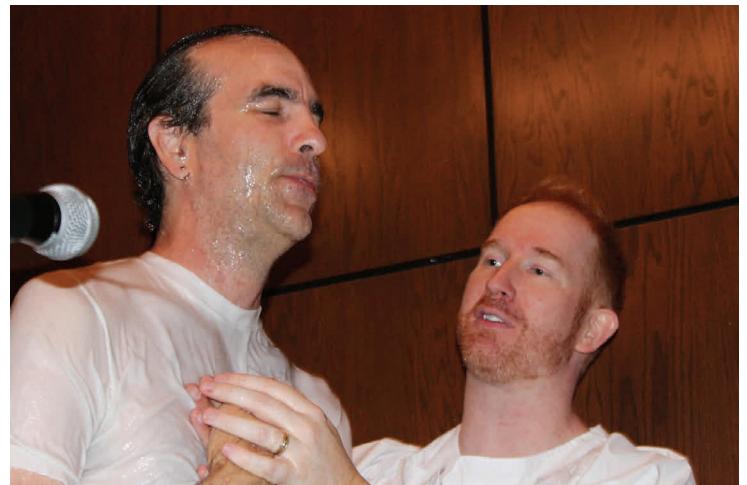
July 3 rd	The Story of the Good Samaritan	During Both Services
July 10 th	The Story of the Vineyard	During Both Services
July 17 th	The Story of the Lost Coin	During Both Services
July 24 th	The Story of the Found Son	During Both Services
July 31st	The Story of the Ten Talents	During Both Services

CHURCH WIDE NEWS

Baptisms

Jesus is still changing lives! We have two new brothers-in-Christ! William Wenger and Mark Aaron both surrendered their wills to Jesus, repented of their sins, and placed their trust in Him last month. They were both baptized on June 26th. You really ought to hear their testimonies. God has done some incredible things in their lives. Please commit to praying for them both and nurturing them in their faiths. Let them know how supportive FCC is of their “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.



Baby Dedication

First Christian was elated to celebrate the birth of Lucille (Lucy) by her parents, Aaron & Valerie White, on June 21, 2016. Lucy's family and extended family, and those in attendance, committed to nurturing Lucy and praying that one day she would eventually place her trust in Jesus Christ as Lord. Let's continue to pray for Lucy and all our children at FCC!



Elders

Would you like for someone to pray with you? Do you have any questions or suggestions for the Elder Board? Elders are ready and willing to meet with you from 10:00-11:00am each Sunday in the parlor (behind the Sanctuary stage). Stop by for a visit at your convenience.

STEWARDSHIP

Below are the YTD totals for the Unified Budget at the end of May 2016. We are showing a net loss of \$10,812. At the end of May we should be at 41.67% of the budget, income is at 38.00% and expenses are at 40.00%.

Unified Budget thru May 2016

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

YTD Income	\$ 153,351.00
YTD Expense	\$ 164,163.00
YTD Net Income/(Loss)	\$ (10,812.00)

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 one-time payment or recurring payments. It is very easy to use, just go to our website at www.fcclawrence.org and click on the Give button and follow the instructions.

Six-month giving statements will go out in the mail soon. Please check to see if you are up-to-date with your pledge and that donations given to date are correct.

We thank all who support First Christian with your time, talent, and resources!

Lisa Hoag, Business Administrator

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 2	Sew N Sews	July 10	Services 9am & 11am Seekers Women Together	July 19	PATH Rain Gutter Regatta
July 3	Services 9am & 11am Seekers Women Together	July 11	Sew N Sews	July 20	CAFT Jr. & Sr. High Youth
July 4	Independence Day FCC Office Closed	July 12	PATH	July 21	PATH
July 5	PATH Prayer Shawl Ministry Elders Meeting	July 13	CAFT Jr. & Sr. High Youth	July 24	Services 9am & 11am Seekers Women Together
July 6	CAFT Jr. & Sr. High Youth	July 14	PATH JOY (Just Older Youth)	July 26	PATH
July 7	PATH	July 17	Services 9am & 11am Seekers Women Together	July 27	CAFT Jr. & Sr. High Youth
		July 18-22	Giving Tree Summer Camp	July 28	PATH
		July 18	Trustees Meeting	July 31	Services 9am & 11am Seekers Women Together

MISSIONS NEWS FROM SWANSON FAMILY

The following prayer requests are from the Swanson family. The Swansons are missionaries serving in Oaxaca, Mexico.

Please pray...

- For Wilf and Anita as they continue the hard work of managing the construction of the new literacy facility. Ask for wisdom for ways to encourage this closed community to feel welcome there and grow in their desire to read and write Chinantec.
- For endurance. There are only about 5 or 6 more books to translate in the Old Testament. The Chinantec church is growing and the New Testaments have changed lives in recent years, but as with any church, truly allowing God's Word to transform hearts does not always occur.
- For our daughter Megan who will travel to the U.S. from Asia for a 2-month furlough to engage with her support team. She plans to return for another year or longer teaching English in a tent-making ministry.
- For our son Ryan who will travel to the U.S. in June to work at a leadership camp in Montana for the summer. Pray for much spiritual growth.
- For the final pieces of the Mexico Branch video project to come together that Melissa is working on.
- For Ed as he continues to work with a team that manages Branch security, Center maintenance and random other jobs
- For volunteers to come as teachers at the mission school next year.
- Praise that 3 volunteer/interns have arrived to help in the finance and IT offices for the next 6 months. Melissa is their facilitator.
- Praise that our savings towards a future car purchase in the U.S. has grown to \$2500.

Thank you for sharing with us together in this ministry of bringing God's Word to the languages of Mexico.



For more information on the Swanson family, visit our missions bulletin board located in the church foyer.

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.

STAFF

Senior Pastor, Dr. David Pendergrass
Matthew Mulnix, Modern Worship
Youth & Children's' Ministry

david@fcclawrence.org
matthew@fcclawrence.org
kiyun@fcclawrence.org

Lisa Hoag, Finance Office
Main Office
Wedding Coordinators

lisa@fcclawrence.org
office@fcclawrence.org
weddings@fcclawrence.org