

THE LAWTON CHRISTIAN

The official newsletter of the First Christian Church of Lawton



Welcome Pastor Amber!



Thank you all for the warm welcome as your pastor! I am so very excited to be part of First Christian Church and able to lend my talents to this congregation, which I call home. Eight years ago, when Konrad and I moved to Lawton/Fort Sill I had the goal of finding a new church home. I was looking for a place that would accept and nurture us, where we could make friends, and where we could put down roots. The challenge was finding a church in Oklahoma where our son Kristopher would also be accepted. Even though Kristopher didn't make the move with us, I refused to continue living life as a hypocrite. Loving my gay son does not mean that I love Jesus any less. So, through trial and error and an introduction to Gene Spillman, we found this church. I have no doubt that through the twists and turns God led us to FCC.

FCC has been a place of love and caring from the very beginning. You not only talk and walk with Christ, but you put it into practice every day right here in Southwest Oklahoma.

It is a joy for me to work with Piper and Konrad, the Board and all the amazing people who use their time and talents to make this place run.

My goals for the next few months are to continue our Agape ministry while finding ways to fund it, to find more economical ways of doing business, to find fund raisers and outside revenue sources, and to continue teaching the word of God every Sunday morning. Most importantly, though, my goal is to make this a place you WANT to come to every Sunday!

Please know that my door is always open!

Pastor Amber

June Leaders in Worship



Sunday, June 4

Elders: John Adair and Lori Anderson

Worship Leader: Joe Bailey

Sunday, June 11

Elders: JoJo and David Aubrey

Worship Leader: Becky Tannery

Sunday, June 18

Elders: Becky Tannery and John Adair

Worship Leader: Jane Springli

Sunday, June 25

Elders: John Adair and Becky Tannery

Worship Leader: Kathy Cooper

Deacons for June:

Rick Van Horn, Janice Logan, Joseph Vanpool

Congratulations Graduate!



In addition to the graduates who were listed in last month's newsletter, we also have another to share with you!

MaKayla McGhee is the daughter of Jon and Healthier Phillips and granddaughter of Fred and Connie Phillips. She is graduating as a Valedictorian from Del City high school. MaKayla has received the Cowboy Covenant, Wentz Foundation, and OSU Academic Excellence scholarships. She is also a finalist for the Hagan Foundation scholarship.

She is enrolled in the fall semester at OSU to begin her studies in psychology with the goal of getting her PhD some day.

May by the Numbers

May Tithes and Offerings (General Fund)	\$ 8,372.68
May Expenses to Date for General Fund	\$ 17,378.96
Difference	\$ -9,006.28
Balance Transfers for May from Special to General	\$ 8,500.00

May Average Sunday In-Person Worship Attendance was **51**.

To date in 2023, **1,593** were served at the Wednesday Agape Meals (**153** were served to children), and 660 were served through our Outdoor Food Pantry.

The Clothes Closet served approximately **44** during May.

Agape/Outreach Ministry

Greetings First Christian Friends and Family,

This is Deacon Joseph Vanpool with just a few notes about the Agapé and Outreach programs. The Agapé program is run by several teams of wonderful, dedicated people. The folks that we feed and clothe rely on us and have become like family. This program has been operating for several years and has been successful as part of our endeavor to serve our neighbors and our community in the spirit of the love of Jesus.

Sadly, our funding is running low. The grant that has been financing the program is nearly depleted. There are grant applications and fundraising events being planned soon.

Our kitchen pantry used for the Agape meal and our little pantry out front are both in need of your generous help and donations. I'm asking everybody to help us out with donations of canned and nonperishable food items. Dig out your cupboards, clean out your pantry, and donate what you can (please check the expiration dates). When you go grocery shopping for your own pantries maybe pick up just a few extra cans at the same time. It will all be used and appreciated. There is a cart set up in the front of the sanctuary and a collection box in the fellowship hall next to the kitchen. Please donate generously as you're able.

Items Needed for Agape Meals:

- Green beans/Corn (#10 cans preferred, but will take any size)
- Peanut butter
- Chili
- Fruit cups
- Spaghetti
- Boxed mashed potatoes
- Baked beans
- Welch's grape juice
- Individually packaged chips
- Bottled water
- Bread
- BBQ sauce
- Pam (spray)
- Ziplock bags (sandwich size)
- Ziplock freezer bags (gallon size)
- Elbow macaroni
- 409 spray cleaner
- Kitchen sponges

Outdoor Pantry:

- Green beans/Corn
- Granola bars
- Pop-Tarts
- Chili
- Soups
- Ramen noodles
- Canned fruit/Fruit cups
- Cheese and crackers
- Peanut butter and crackers
- Cereal
- Bottled water
- Ravioli, Spaghettios, etc
- Tuna
- Peanut butter (individual cups or small jars)
- Bread

Continued on page 4

Also, as I will be leaving to begin a new life in Oregon in the beginning of July, so we will also need just a few more volunteers for a few hours a month to cook and serve on the third Wednesday of the month. If you are interested and can commit, please see Konrad or Joseph and we'll see what we can do to get you going.

Monetary Donations Are Also Needed for Agape Meal Program

On average we have about 60 folks at the Wednesday night Agape Meal. As examples of costs of single meals, **we can serve a hot dog meal for about \$2.20 a person and spaghetti for around \$2.43 a person.** Therefore, going with the higher meal cost it would about **\$145.80 total for one night.** As you all may know we have been operating off donations that were directly given to support the feeding ministry. However, as with all budget issues, we are getting very low on funds to support this program. Any help would be greatly appreciated. Checks may be made out to "First Christian Church" with "Agape Meal Program" in the memo line. Submitted by Konrad Delger

June Wednesday Agape Meal Menu (served at 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall)

June 7 - Chicken patty sandwich, macaroni salad, green beans

June 14 - Hot dogs, baked beans, chips, French fries or tots, dessert

June 21 - Chicken stew, biscuits, dessert

June 28 - BBQ pork rib patties, tater salad, brussels sprouts, dessert

Our Dannie and Rafie Clothes Closet is open each Wednesday from 5:00 pm to 5:25 pm prior to the meal. The closet is in need of **men's jeans, shorts, and t-shirts (any size).**

Clothing donations can be dropped off at the church Monday through Friday from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Please make sure all donations are clean and serviceable. For more information regarding the clothes closet or if you have clothing donations, please call the church office or Denise Smith.

Christian Women's Fellowship/ OK Disciples Women News

CWF has many plans in the works for an enjoyable summer at FCC. Of course, our "Up, Up, and Away" Father's Day Recognition is just one. Keep your eyes on the emails and bulletins!

Jane Springli
CWF President



June 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 11 am Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Elders Meeting	2 Noon - Just Games With Friends	3 9 am Weight Watchers
4 10:30 am Worship	5 Monday Morning Minute on FCC YouTube Channel 6 pm Boy Scouts	6 Noon - Taco Tuesday at Julio's Mexican Restaurant 1 pm CWF Business Mtg.	7 Noon - Book Study At Buffalo Grove 5 pm Clothes Closet Open 5:30 pm Agape Meal and Study	8 7 pm Anna Group Meets in Parlor	9	10 9 am Weight Watchers
11 10:30 am Worship/ Congregational Meeting After Worship	12 Monday Morning Minute on FCC YouTube Channel	13 Noon - Taco Tuesday at Julio's Mexican Restaurant 1 pm Ruth Group at Burgess Grill	14 Noon - Book Study At Buffalo Grove 5 pm Clothes Closet Open 5:30 pm Agape Meal and Study	15	16	17 9 am Weight Watchers
18 Fathers Day 10:30 am Worship	19 Monday Morning Minute on FCC YouTube Channel 6 pm Boy Scouts	20 Noon - Taco Tuesday at Julio's Mexican Restaurant 6 pm Choir Party at Coopers	21 Noon - Book Study At Buffalo Grove 5 pm Clothes Closet Open 5:30 pm Agape Meal and Study	22 6:30 pm Board Meeting	23	24 9 am Weight Watchers
25 10:30 am Worship/	26 Monday Morning Minute on FCC YouTube Channel 6 pm Boy Scouts	27 11:30 am Girls' Lunch Out at Los Trace West Location Noon - Taco Tuesday at Julio's Mexican Restaurant	28 Noon - Book Study At Buffalo Grove 5 pm Clothes Closet Open 5:30 pm Agape Meal and Study	29	30 Noon - Just Games With Friends	

Thank You

To my dear friends at First Christian Church, Thank you, so much, for your kindness and the support you have shown Sage and me over the years. Thank you for the warm, well attended celebration to mark the end of our shared ministry together. The songs were beautiful, the food delicious, the decorations impeccable, and the kind words shared unforgettable. I also greatly appreciate the gifts from the CWF and the love gift from all of you. Your generosity, prayers, and support have been invaluable to us, and we will carry you in our hearts wherever God takes us. Blessings and Peace, Rev. Paul Appleby



Dear First Christian Church Family and Friends,

The Executive Board would like to take this opportunity to thank every member of the congregation for their help in making Rev. Appleby's farewell luncheon a success. There are so many individuals to thank that it is impossible to remember all the names and thank you individually. Just know your help financially, overseeing the setup, clean up, or program participation was very much appreciated. Plus, the prayers and good thoughts were felt by Paul and Sage.

First Christian Church of Lawton can be very proud of carrying on the tradition of sending a Settled Pastor on to their next calling with love and dignity.

Sincerely,
Chairman, Dr. Brian Birdwell
Vice Chairman, Deanna Deville
Secretary, Rick Van Horn
Treasurer, Sheila Fountain

To the First Christian Church, I Hilde Wells would like to say thank you for all the Birthday Cards, greetings, all the phone calls and the special delivery. I had a good 90th birthday. Thank you to all of you members from my heart. God Bless, Church Member Hilde Wells



Thank you FCC for the wonderful outpouring of love toward me during Administrative Professionals Week! I so appreciated the flowers, cards, kind notes, and gifts. You all make me feel so special! Sincerely, Piper Saville



Dear First Christian Church of Lawton, Thank you for thinking of me during this exciting part of my life. May God continue to bless this church and your organization. Thank you again. Sincerely, Allie Albert



Thank you all so much for the kind and thoughtful gift. I appreciate being included in the celebration even from far away! I know it has been years since I have seen some of my FCC Family, but I keep up from afar and hold you all dearly. Thanks again! MaKayla McGhee



To the ladies of CWF, thank you so much for your kindness. I did not expect it. Thank you for the card and chocolates but most of all for the journal/book "Taking it day by day". It is helping me a lot. Hilde Bilvais

June Birthdays



- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| 6/1 Teresa Ingle | 6/19 Alisa Engler |
| 6/5 John Bowman | 6/24 Janice Logan |
| 6/11 Nancy Davis | 6/29 Margaret Littig |
| 6/18 Janie Dupler | 6/30 Gary Bailey |

June Anniversaries



- | |
|-----------------------------|
| 6/7 Sam and Phyllis Bowman |
| 6/10 Dick and Becky Tannery |
| 6/17 Tom and Jane Springli |
| 6/20 Rick and Joan Van Horn |

Joys and Concerns Thank you for Praying!

We praise God and rejoice with the following:

- Kerrie Oates has seven more weeks of nursing school!
- David Pratt got a raise at work!
- The infusion and other shots that Lori Anderson received are helping her pain!
- Cindy Davis's son Rob has recovered from shingles and underwent a successful procedure to insert a new electrical spinal stimulator for relief of his back pain

These who have lost loved ones appreciate your prayers:

- Jan Logan and Family following the death of Earl Logan

These appreciate your ongoing prayers:

- Friends of the Pratt grandchildren
- Cindy Davis
- Coy and Peggy Citron
- Kerrie Oates
- Pat Cassady

These with ongoing health concerns and their families appreciate your continued prayers:

- Aaron (Ursula Asuncion's son)
- Axel, Jazzy, and Dillon Noland
- Baby Mila (friend of Ann Werner)
- Beverly Honeycutt
- Blaise Bailey (Joe Bailey's granddaughter)
- Darlene Miller
- Fran Herring (Brian Herring's grandmother)
- JoJo Aubrey's Mother
- Lori Anderson
- Margorie Lutz
- Mark Durham (Beverly Watson's brother)
- Mel Cassady
- Melissa Pratt
- Michelle Henke (friend of Joe Bailey's granddaughter)
- Pat Cassady's Sister
- Sahona Littig-Albin
- Sherri Denning
- Shirley Bradley (friend of Melissa Pratt)
- Theresa Aubrey's Mother

Church Staff and Contact Information

Pastor- Amber Delger/pastor@fcclawton.org
Office Manager - Piper Saville/office@fcclawton.org
Director of Music - David C. Anderson/davidtunespianos@gmail.com
Facilities Manager - Konrad Delger
Sound Technician - Brian Herring
Nursery - Beverly Watson
701 SW D Avenue, Lawton, OK 73501
580.355.2437 / FAX 580.355.3354 / www.fcclawton.org



First Christian Church

701 SW D Avenue
Lawton, OK 73501-4592

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