

THE LAWTON CHRISTIAN

The official newsletter of the First Christian Church of Lawton



A New and Living Hope

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This month we have been blessed with numerous opportunities to gather together for worship, prayer and praise. We will embark upon the journey of Holy Week on Palm Sunday and accompany Jesus through the last days of his earthly ministry as we celebrate the events of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday- culminating with a joyous celebration of the victory of the love of God over death itself on Easter Sunday morning! I want to encourage you to attend all of these services if you are able. They promise to be both meaningful and memorable.

Speaking of meaningful and memorable worship, our Eastertide series will begin on Sunday, April 16 as we Emerge! Here we will celebrate the power of spiritual, emotional, and physical transformation as we learn to creatively embrace the changes God invites us to throughout our lives and our life together. Below, you will find message titles, Scriptures, songs, and a brief description of our upcoming services.

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Palm Sunday (4/2): Look for the Unexpected

The disciples must have been excited and terrified all at once. The entrance into Jerusalem for Passover week had turned into a big deal. How would Jesus be received, by the people and by the authorities? Looking for love? Keep your eyes out for it in unexpected places.

Scriptures: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Matthew 21:1-11

Songs: “We Are Marching”; “Good Trouble”; “O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus”

Elders: Lori Anderson and David Aubrey

Worship Leader: Sheila Fountain

Maundy Thursday Foot Washing (4/6): Look for the Servant

Sometimes our attitudes close us off from experiencing love in its fullness. We can think that we are unworthy, or undeserving of love- so when it is freely offered, we turn away.

In John’s Gospel we hear a story about love demonstrated through acts of humility and service, and while we may be comfortable being on the giving end of such acts of devotion- as Jesus prepared for his final meal with his followers, he asked they allow him to show his love to them by washing their feet. This kind of love, the kind that gives permission to be cared for, to be held, to be vulnerable, does not come easily to many of us. But if it is true, that it is better to give than to receive, then we must take the risk- allow others to see the “dirt on our soles/souls” and we must show the humility to gratefully accept the gift of loving service.

Scriptures: Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; John 13:1-20, 31-35

Songs: “Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service”; “Jesu, Jesu”

Elders:

Worship Leader: Lori Anderson

Good Friday (4/7): Look for the Cross

Throughout the season of Lent, we have examined the many places this world tells us to look for love, and have found that when we follow the ways of the world, we end up chasing the wind. If we truly wish to find love, we must turn to our God who is love. In Jesus, our God who is love was made flesh. It is in Jesus we learn, once again, that the world is wrong about love. Tonight, we will see that love isn’t heart-shaped, rather, the shape of love is cruciform. The shape of a cross.

Scriptures: Luke 23:32-34; Luke 23:43; John 19:25-27; Matthew 27:24-26; John 19:28; John 19:30; Luke 23:44-46

Songs: “Were You There”; “Sing of Mary, Meek and Lowly”; “Ah, Holy Jesus”; “Here Hangs a Man Discarded”

Elders:

Worship Leader: Patsy Bassel

Easter (4/9): Love Wins

In the end (or is it the beginning?), love wins. All things of this world pale in comparison to what resurrection looks like in our lives. New-found meaning, purpose, attention, wholeheartedness, wellbeing, peace: these are the things that matter – the things the Teacher shows us. And no matter how many “wrong places” we’ve looked for love, the graves give way to the light of a new day as we learn to love as Christ loves us.

Scriptures: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; John 20:11-18

Songs: “Christ the Lord is Risen Today”; “Love Brought Me Back”; “They’ll Know We Are Christians”

Elders: David Aubrey and JoJo Aubrey

Worship Leader: John Adair

Tombs and Cocoons: Trusting the Dark (4/16)

The caterpillar’s instinct about cocooning – entering the nurturing dark of gestation – is paralleled in the story of Jesus’ birth from the womb of Mary, the dark of the burial tomb from which he emerged, and our own willingness for transformation. “Emerging” is inherent in the Christian story and in our story as followers of Jesus. But it also means trusting the Divine when we aren’t sure what’s “next” for us. Will we allow ourselves to trust in the dark where transformation begins?

Scriptures: Luke 1:26-38; John 19:38-20:1

Songs: “In the Bulb There Is a Flower”; “Holy Darkness”; “Joyful Is the Dark”

Elders: JoJo Aubrey and John Adair

Worship Leader: Joe Bailey

Coming Out: Leaving Comfortable Places (4/23)

As ever-emerging spiritual creatures, we cannot contain ourselves – the selves God has created us to be. Coming out as people and as a church from what we have known into a new identity is filled with anxiety and unknowing. Emerging will take effort and surrendering to “the assurance of things hoped for” even though we cannot yet see what the future holds.

Scripture: Hebrews 11:1-3

Songs: “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”; “Blessed Assurance”; “Take My Life”

Elders: Lori Anderson and Becky Tannery

Worship Leader: Brian Birdwell



Open: Into the Light (4/30)

The story of faith is not one of arrival but of journey. The new butterfly’s struggle to push out of its confines produces a fissure that cannot be undone. There is no going back, the journey to a new existence has commenced. The post-resurrection story of Jesus opening the hearts of his fellow travelers along the road to Emmaus invites us to be companions of the one who will open us into the light of a new day.

Scripture: Luke 24:28-40

Songs: “Open the Eyes of My Heart”; “The Road to Emmaus”; “Arise, your light is come!”

Elders: John Adair and David Aubrey

Worship Leader: Kathy Cooper

Deacons for April: Amber Delger, Jane Springli, Tom Springli (Team Captain)

Potato Pile-On Fun!



March by the Numbers

March Tithes and Offerings (General Fund)	\$ 14,147.22
March Expenses to Date for General Fund	\$ 23,568.00
Difference	\$ -9,420.78
Balance Transfers for March from Special to General	\$ 5,900.00

March Average Sunday In-Person Worship Attendance was **45**.

To date in 2023, **756 meals** were served at the Wednesday Agape Meals (**67** were served to children), and **350 meals** were served through our Outdoor Food Pantry. The Clothes Closet served **85 people** during March.



April 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 9 am Weight Watchers
2 Palm Sunday 10:30 am Worship	3 Monday Morning Minute on FCC YouTube Channel 6 pm Boy Scouts	4 1 pm CWF Business Mtg.	5 Noon - Book Study At Buffalo Grove 5 pm Clothes Closet Open 5:30 pm Agape Meal and Study 6 pm Choir	6 Maundy Thursday 6 pm Maundy Thursday Service	7 Good Friday 5 pm Girl Scouts 6 pm Good Friday Service	8 9 am Weight Watchers
9 Easter Sunday 10:30 am Worship	10 Monday Morning Minute on FCC YouTube Channel 6 pm Boy Scouts	11 Noon - Taco Tuesday at Julio's Mexican Restaurant 1 pm Ruth Group 6:30 pm Board Mtg. at Sheila Fountain's	12 Noon - Book Study At Buffalo Grove 5 pm Clothes Closet Open 5:30 pm Agape Meal and Study 6 pm Choir	13 7 pm Anna Group Meets	14 5 pm Girl Scouts	15 9 am Weight Watchers
16 10:30 am Worship	17 Monday Morning Minute on FCC YouTube Channel 6 pm Boy Scouts	18 Noon - Taco Tuesday at Julio's Mexican Restaurant	19 Noon - Book Study At Buffalo Grove 5 pm Clothes Closet Open 5:30 pm Agape Meal and Study 6 pm Choir	20	21 1:30 pm Audit Committee 5 pm Girl Scouts	22 9 am Weight Watchers
23 10:30 am Worship	24 Monday Morning Minute on FCC YouTube Channel 6 pm Boy Scouts	25 Noon - Taco Tuesday at Julio's Mexican Restaurant	26 5 pm Clothes Closet Open 5:30 pm Agape Meal and Study 6 pm Choir	27	28 5 pm Girl Scouts	29 9 am Weight Watchers
30 10:30 am Worship						

April Birthdays and Anniversaries

4/15 Jimi Denning 4/23 Cindy Davis
 4/16 Sherri Denning 4/25 Kerrie Oates
 4/16 Jennifer Gubisch 4/25 Hilde Wells

4/4 Fred and Connie Phillips
 4/6 Bill and Gaila Kindt

You Are Invited!

Coco (Bean) and Mocha Tillman request the honor of your presence for the joining in marriage of Kristopher George Denning and Melody Dawn Tillman on May 27th, 2023 at 11:00 AM at Calvary Assembly of God Church (2402 NW Bell). Please RSVP by May 1st to Mary or Sherri Denning.

The happy couple is registered at Amazon, Target, and Walmart.

Joys and Concerns Thank you for Praying!

We praise God and rejoice with the following:

- Nancy Davis is doing great following her two cataract surgeries!
- Betty Aliff had medical treatment for her back pain and has fully recovered!
- Jane Springli's friend Carolyn's husband is improving!
- Joe Bailey's daughter Bobbi's co-worker Joanna Price is much improved!
- Janice Logan says that her sister Linda has been released to go home! She is doing physical therapy at home and is doing much better!

These who have lost loved ones appreciate your prayers:

- Family and friends of Joyce (Hilde Bilvais's friend)
- Family of Perry Driver (Deanna Deville's brother)
- Family and friends of a girl scout camp ranger in Marlow
- Family of George Lindley (Wendi Lindley's brother-in-law)
- Family of Linda Trapp
- Family of Carmine (Becky Tannery's brother-in-law)

These appreciate your ongoing prayers:

- Kerrie Oates
- Melanie (Joe Bailey's daughter)
- Nehemiah (Joe Bailey's grandson)
- Wendi Lindley

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)
- Connie Phillips
- Darlene Miller
- Fran Herring (Brian Herring's grandmother)
- Lori Anderson
- Mark Durham (Beverly Watson's brother)
- Mel Cassidy
- Michelle Henke (friend of Joe Bailey's granddaughter)
- Rev. Wayne Ashlock (former FCC pastor)
- Ronnie Bagwell (friend of Glenda Brown)

Agape/Outreach Ministry



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

April Menu:

April 5 - chili dogs with cheese, chips and green beans

April 12 - chicken fritters, salad, potatoes

April 19 - egg rolls

April 26 - spaghetti, bread, and salad

Our Dannie and Rafie Clothes Closet is open each Wednesday from 5:00 pm to 5:30 pm prior to the meal. The closet is in need of **men's jeans, shorts, and t-shirts (any size)**. For more information regarding the clothes closet or if you have clothing donations, please call the church office or Denise Smith.

Our Outdoor Food Pantry on the south side of our church building is always in need of donations. You may either bring them to the church office or place them directly in the Outdoor Pantry (please mark out the UPC codes). These donations go quickly! Useful non-perishable items include the following:

- Canned ravioli or spaghetti
- Other canned meats with easy-open tops
- Packages of ramen noodles
- Pop-Tarts
- Easy-open canned fruit or pudding
- Bread
- Cheese and Crackers
- Peanut butter
- Cereal
- Bottled Water

Christian Women's Fellowship/ OK Disciples Women News

The Christian Women's Fellowship is thrilled to announce that due to the congregation's generosity, we cleared over \$1,000 at the St. Patrick's Day Potato Pile On. The decorations were festive, as well as the costumes worn by our members. A huge thank you to all who donated food items and gave to this fund raiser. This money goes into the CWF budget to provide bereavement meals, Thinking of You gifts, and to support our missions such as; Cameron Campus Ministry, Meals on Wheels, and The Holy City. Thank you to Konrad Delger for finding the biggest potatoes in Lawton, to John Adair for guiding the tables to the line by birthdays, and to Joseph Vanpool for offering the blessing before meal. Always a huge thank you to those who brought amazing desserts (oh the cookies!!!) Needless to say the entertainment provided by David Anderson, Brian Birdwell, and Rick Van Horn was amazing.

Our next outreach mission will last from now until June 30. Please bring new or gently used towels and wash cloths to help support the C. Carter Crane Shelter. Place the items in the boxes by the office door.

Our Mother's Day Garden of Remembrances will begin in May. More to follow.

Jane Springli
CWF President

Church Staff and Contact Information

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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

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First Christian Church

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