

THE LAWTON CHRISTIAN

The official newsletter of the First Christian Church of Lawton



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Autumn Excitement

by Rev. Paul Appleby

Friends in Christ,

Summer is nearly in our rearview mirror, and fall has officially arrived.

Last month we celebrated the church's belated 121st birthday in style (see pictures on page five of this newsletter). Thanks to the CWF for all they have done to make that event so special. Particularly for all the work decorating, organizing, and advertising (in addition to taking care of the meat, the entertainment, and that wonderful photo opportunity!). I know our folks appreciated it! In fact, I appreciated it so much that I would love to help plan the next celebration.

This month, there is a lot going on at FCC! First, on **Sunday, October 2nd** we will celebrate the life and ministry of St. Francis of Assis by holding our annual

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Blessing of the Animals. Please remember to take your Claritin and grab your favorite non-human companions (whether they have fins, scales, or fur) and bring them with you to our service for a special blessing!

The very next week, after services on **Sunday, October 9th**, we will have a **Church Game Day**. In addition to a finger food/snack/hors d'oeuvres lunch, we will play *Team Jeopardy!* with categories containing clues about Lawton Trivia, FCC, The Bible, and more! At the end of the afternoon's celebration, we will crown one team the "champions" until our next Game Day! I hope to see you there!

Sunday, October 23rd, marks the beginning of our **Fall Stewardship campaign**, *Devoted to Generosity*. We will be handing out free copies of Rev. Bruce Barkhauer's short book *Community of Prayer: a stewardship devotional* during our Sunday morning service as a free gift to all our brothers and sisters. Our campaign will conclude with **Commitment Sunday** on **November 20th**.

Finally, **Sunday, October 30th** will not only mark the end of our most recent worship series *Find Your People*, but it will also mark our celebration of **The Festival of All Saints and All Souls**. This is a day that Christians have set aside to remember those who have gone on to glory, so if there is anyone special you would like remembered during our Sunday morning service, please submit their names to the church office no later than **Monday, October 24th** so that we can make sure they are a part of our celebration.

Blessings & Peace,
Rev. Appleby



Worship Corner - October 2022

Throughout the month of October, we will be concluding our series, *Find Your People: building deep community in a lonely world*. We will also celebrate St. Francis of Assisi day and gather with our people to enjoy a fun church game day! We hope to see you at any and all of these exciting services.

October 2, 2022 - St. Francis Sunday, “Deep”

Elders: Lori Anderson and John Adair

Worship Leader: Brian Birdwell

Scriptures: 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13; Romans 12:3-5

Songs: *One Bread, One Body* (393); *Sister, Let Me Be Your Servant* (490); *Called as Partners in Christ's Service* (453)

October 9, 2022 - Church Game Day, “Committed”

Elders: John Adair and Lori Anderson

Worship Leader: Sheila Fountain

Scriptures: Galatians 6:1-10; Matthew 26:26-28

Songs: *Here at Thy Table, Lord* (384); *Have Thine Own Way, Lord* (588); *Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service* (461)

October 16, 2022- “Finding Your Family”

Elders: Sage Appleby and David Aubrey

Worship Leader: Lori Anderson

Scriptures: Psalm 68:6; 1 Timothy 5:8

Songs: *Once We Were No People; Come, Share the Lord* (408); *Family of God* (Celebration Hymnal 419)



Photo by Denise Smith

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October 23, 2022 - "Holding On to Your People"

Elders: David Aubrey and Becky Tannery

Worship Leader: Sam Bowman

Scriptures: Ephesians 6:10-17; 1 Peter 5:6-9

Songs: *Be Thou My Vision* (595); *Stand Up! Stand Up for Jesus!* (613); *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* (585)

October 30, 2022 - All Saints & All Souls Sunday, "Intimacy of a Few"

Elders: Becky Tannery and JoJo Aubrey

Worship Leader: John Adair

Scriptures: Romans 12:9-21 (MSG); John 15:11-15 (MSG)

Songs: *No Greater Love* (Chalice Praise 45); *I Sing a Song of the Saints of God*; *Help Us Accept Each Other* (487)

Deacons for October

Tom Springli (Team Captain), Jane Springli, Amber Delger



September By the Numbers

September Tithes and Offerings to Date	\$ 8,758.36
September Expenses to Date	\$13,428.38
Difference	\$-4,670.02
Balance Transfers for September	\$ 2,000.00
September Average Sunday In-Person Worship Attendance	36
Year-to-Date Agape Meals/Pantry Meals Served	4203 (based on an average of 50 meals a week from the outdoor pantry)

121st Birthday Party Pics



**Tom and Jane
Springli**



**Delicious Potluck
Lunch!**



**Patsy Bassel and
Brian Birdwell**



**Helma Blackburn and
Ursula Asuncion**



**Janice Logan, Nancy Davis, Bill
Logan, Virginia Lucas, and
Sheila Fountain**



**Theresa and Taylor
Aubrey**



**Wyatt Myers, John Kennedy,
and Joseph Resler**



**Darlene and Bill
Ramsey**



**Scout Master Tom Myers,
Richard Resler, Debbie
Myers, and Mrs. Resler**

Agape/Outreach Ministry



Each Wednesday, our Agape Meal is served from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm. The meal is served in our Fellowship Hall, and following the dinner, Rev. Appleby will lead a Bible Study for those who wish to stay and participate. The meal is free and will be served one meal per person. Thank you to all who help with this ministry!

According to Outreach co-chair Konrad Delger, the meal teams have served **2353 meals** since January, with approximately **242 of those meals going to children.** The Boy Scouts have been assisting with the meals, and we have a couple of other great volunteers, but we would always welcome help from anyone. Hilde Bilvais has provided assistance for folks with dogs and cats throughout the month and as always could use any donations to help with this ministry.

October Menu:

October 5: Chili cheese dogs, baked beans, green beans, chips

October 12: Chicken sandwiches, salad, potato salad

October 19: Pork rib shaped patties

October 26: Breakfast for dinner

Our Dannie and Rafie Clothes Closet is open each Wednesday from 5:00 pm to 5:30 pm prior to the meal. The closet has been open for three weeks so far this month and has provided assistance to approximately **42** individuals so far. For more information regarding the clothes closet, 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. 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



October 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 10:30 am In-person Worship with Blessing of the Animals	3 Monday Morn- ing Minute on FCC YouTube Channel 6 pm Boy Scouts	4 10 am CWF Business Mtg. Noon - Taco Tuesday at Julio's Mexican Restaurant 5:30 pm Choir	5 Noon - Book Study at Buffalo Grove 5 pm Clothes Closet Open 5:30 pm Agape Meal and Study	6 5:30 pm Elders	7	8
9 10:30 am In-person Worship Noon - Church Game Day and Potluck	10 Office Closed Monday Morn- ing Minute on FCC YouTube Channel 6 pm Boy Scouts	11 11 am - Ruth Group Noon - Taco Tuesday at Julio's Mexican Restaurant 5:30 pm Choir	12 Noon - Book Study at Buffalo Grove 5 pm Clothes Closet Open 5:30 pm Agape Meal and Study	13 7 pm Anna Group meets In Parlor 7:30 pm Boy Scout District Meeting in FH	14	15 8:00 am Hike in the Refuge
16 10:30 am In-person Worship	17 Monday Morn- ing Minute on FCC YouTube Channel 6 pm Boy Scouts	18 Noon - Taco Tuesday at Julio's Mexican Restaurant 5:30 pm Choir	19 Noon - Book Study at Buffalo Grove 5 pm Clothes Closet Open 5:30 pm Agape Meal and Study	20 6:30 pm Board Meeting	21	22
23 Stewardship Campaign Begins 10:30 am In-person Worship	24 Monday Morn- ing Minute on FCC YouTube Channel 6 pm Boy Scouts	25 Noon - Taco Tuesday at Julio's Mexican Restaurant 5:30 pm Choir	26 Noon - Book Study at Buffalo Grove 5 pm Clothes Closet Open 5:30 pm Agape Meal and Study	27	28	29
30 Festival of All Saints and All Souls 10:30 am In-person Worship	31 Halloween Monday Morn- ing Minute on FCC YouTube Channel 6 pm Boy Scouts				(October 1st was the first Saturday of this month. It was intentionally left off this calen- dar for space considerations. There was noth- ing scheduled on that date)	

Joys and Concerns



We praise God and rejoice with the following:

- Jimi and Cyndel Denning had a baby girl, Athena Elaine Denning!
- Tom and Jane Springli are happy to share that their son Randy is progressing in a positive direction, and they are very proud of his accomplishments!
- Bill Kindt passed the liquid swallowing test and had ice cream on the way home!

These with ongoing concerns appreciate your continued prayers:

- All of our armed forces and their families at home and abroad
- Beverly Honeycutt (arthritis pain)
- Bill Kindt (recuperating at home)
- Cindy Davis and family (one-year passing of her daughter; plantar fasciitis pain)
- Mel Cassady (adjusting to the VA Center)
- Kerrie Oates as she begins nursing school
- Don and Phyllis Henke (health)
- David Lindley (AFIB and other health issues)
- Amber Delger (difficulty managing stress)
- Jazzy, Dillon, and Baby Axel
- Baby Mila (very small; has cleft palate and other issues; is the daughter of Ann Werner's friend)
- Setsuko Albertson (Theresa Aubrey's mother who is getting adjusted to a new memory care unit)
- Jim Horner (David and Lori Anderson's friend who has a cancer reoccurrence)
- Lynn Burris' mother (hospitalized and in need of healing) along with comfort for the family
- Wilfred Flores (cancer treatment)
- Shirley Baugher (Vicky Flores' brother's wife who is hospitalized and not expected to recover)
- Fran Herring (Brian Herring's grandmother who is undergoing chemo)
- Carmine (Becky Tannery's brother-in-law) who has been put on hospice following a stroke and other heart issues
- Twelve-year-old Reniyah (Melissa Pratt's granddaughter) who is having major female medical issues
- Melissa Pratt (gallbladder issues)
- Piper Saville (healing from knee scope and gastroenteritis)
- Robert (Amber Delger's father who is in memory care) and his wife Colleen

2022 Stewardship Campaign: Devoted to Generosity

It is that time of year, once again, as we turn our attention toward “the management of the household of God.” This year, the focus of our stewardship campaign will be on generosity- the sort of ridiculous generosity that Jesus demonstrated at the wedding of Cana.

In that famous story from John 2, Jesus and his family are invited to a wedding. The hosts likely didn't expect Jesus to actually show up, let alone bring a cadre of hungry, hard working tradespeople and disciples with him! Soon, the resources the hosts set aside for the celebration are stressed, then depleted. Once the wine was all drunk up, well, it was time to turn out the lights, the party was over.

Or, it would have been. But in that moment, God, in all God's gracious generosity saw to the needs of this band of revelers, and to prevent the celebration from grinding to a halt Jesus produced an abundance of wine for the party goers- and so the good times could continue. The guests even exclaimed to their surprised hosts, “Most people serve the good wine at the beginning of a party, but you have kept the good wine until now.”

The end of the wedding party proved even richer, rowdier, and more lavish than its humble beginnings. That's just how it happens when Jesus shows up to the party. That is the kind of stewardship that God modeled for us when he walked among us.

The Center for Faith and Giving reminds us that stewardship is not a program, it is not a percentage, and it is not simply a part of our faith. Stewardship connects to every single thing that we do with our lives as followers of Jesus Christ.

Stewardship connects us intimately to the mission and person of Christ. It draws us into deeper relationships with each other, with our neighbors, and with our God. To take stewardship seriously requires us to have an awareness of the problems and scarcity around us. It requires us to have compassion and hope for everyone that needs rescue and redemption in our world. And it requires us to step up and step out, even if we think that we aren't quite ready, and be generous with the time, gifts, talents, money, and other resources that God has blessed us with.

And here is the result: when we are good stewards God is revealed! When we are good stewards, God's kingdom is revealed. When we are good stewards, Jesus is glorified.

This year our stewardship campaign will kick off on Sunday, October 23rd. During that morning's service, in addition to a little conversation about stewardship prior to our offering, we will be distributing copies of *Community of Prayer: a stewardship devotional* by Bruce Barkhauer. This 29-day devotional will help us to understand the spiritual side of stewardship and the ways in which the practice of stewardship can improve our self-care, our environment, and our relationships. I trust it will be a great resource as we discern how God is calling us to support the ministry of First Christian Church.

Our campaign will conclude on *Commitment Sunday*, November 20th, as we celebrate all the ways in which our community continues to bear witness to the radical, ridiculous, ever-flowing grace that we find in Christ and are devoted to generously sharing with our community.



October Health Tip - Flu Vaccine From Kathy Cooper, RN

Flu is a contagious disease that spreads around the United States every year, usually between October and May. Anyone can get the flu, but it is more dangerous for some people. Infants and young children, those over 65 years, pregnant, and with chronic health conditions are at greatest risk of flu complications.

Each year, scientists monitor the global spread of flu and decide which flu strains will likely cause the most illness during flu season. Those strains are then put into the flu vaccine for that year, so each year the vaccine is different. The vaccine does not protect against other viruses or bacteria that cause colds or stomach illness, such as stomach flu. This year the strains come from the Netherlands, Australia, Singapore and Wisconsin.

What are the benefits of the vaccine? They include reduced recovery time and complications if you contract the illness, including pneumonia, bronchitis, sepsis and death. When you and your family are immunized, you help protect others as well. The flu vaccine is available now through pharmacies, health department and some local physician offices. In an average year, thousands of people in the United States die from flu, and many more are hospitalized. Flu vaccine prevents millions of illnesses and flu-related visits to the doctor each year.



CWF/ODW News

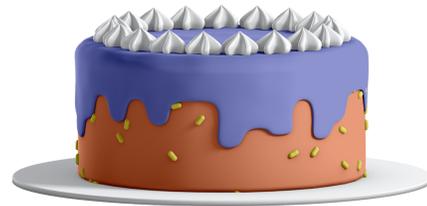
On Thursday the 25th of August we enjoyed a "Girls Out to Lunch" at Back Porch Restaurant and nine members attended. It was delicious, and the conversation was stimulating. We will do another lunch September 29th at 11:30 at Mutti's Restaurant. We are encouraging all church women to join us for a Dutch treat and good conversation.

Nancy and Joan decorated the church with fall colors beautifully (see picture below). If you enjoy these beautiful additions please tell Nancy and Joan. Discussion regarding a Harvest Meal for mid-November was discussed. Possible date is November 13th. More planning and discussion is needed, and of course we must see what happens in the fall with Covid BA.5 and other forms of Covid.

Respectfully submitted
Kathy Cooper
President CFW/ODW



Happy Birthday!



- 10/3 Amanda Hubbard
- 10/4 Lynda Trapp
- 10/5 Taylor Aubrey
- 10/7 Byron Phillips
- 10/10 Jason Davis
- 10/11 Bill Kindt
- 10/13 Beverly Honeycutt
- 10/16 Vicky Flores
- 10/16 John Kennedy
- 10/19 Anna Maria Herbert
- 10/20 Phyllis Henke
- 10/21 Ty Vaughan
- 10/27 Mary Denning

Happy Anniversary



- 10/2 Clint and Taylor Kennedy
- 10/12 Jack and Kerrie Oates
- 10/18 Mel and Pat Cassady
- 10/18 Bill and Janice Logan
- 10/19 Kevin and Glenda Brown

(If you have a birthday or anniversary that we have left out of the newsletter, please inform the church office.)

Church Staff and Contact Information

Pastor- Rev. Paul Appleby/pastor@fcclawton.org

Administrative Assistant - 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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(Please be sure to send your emails to the church office at office@fcclawton.org.

We no longer use fccadmin@sbcglobal.net)



First Christian Church

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Lawton, OK 73501-4592

The Lawton Christian is published monthly by the First Christian Church, 701 SW D Ave., Lawton, OK (Pub. No. 904-100). **PERIODICALS.** Postage paid at Lawton, OK. Postmaster: Send change of address to 701 SW D. Ave, Lawton, OK 73501-4592.

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