

THE LAWTON CHRISTIAN

The official newsletter of the First Christian Church of Lawton



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This Month at FCC- March 2022

by Rev. Paul Appleby

To the Family of God at First Christian,

Welcome to the season of Lent. It's a 40-ish day period in the church's calendar dedicated to some of our world's most appreciated but least practiced virtues: honesty, patience, and repentance. During this period, Christians the world over usually practice a fast of sorts (a giving up of something getting in the way of our relationship with God) and look seriously at their lives and faith as a way to bring them true. That starts with cutting away all those things that clutter and weigh down our souls in order to see what lies beneath. While some take it as an opportunity to practice restraint in pursuit of spiritual perfection, this year, let's leave perfection to God. Instead, let's agree to aim for "good enough."

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In fact, “good enough” is our theme this Lenten season. Let us fast from the struggling and striving for improvement- the next step, the next big thing, and instead let us engage in practices that will help us grow where we are planted. Let us embrace our perfect imperfection. Let us turn from depravation to sufficiency, from struggle to acceptance, from focusing on our failures to recognizing that the most beautiful flowers grow from dark soil and manure, but only if we tend them. Let us cultivate the soil of our souls. Let us turn over the hard packed ground of set ways, ideas, and desires. Let us clear a bed for ourselves where we can not just strive and survive, but where we can thrive.

This year, I invite you to join me in giving up perfection for Lent and embracing the beauty, the joy, and the peace that comes when we work towards a faith that is “good enough.”

As you may notice, “good enough” is also the theme for our worship services throughout the Lenten season, and it is based on the work of Worship Design Studios and the brand-new Lenten devotional *Good Enough: 40ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection* (available now wherever books are sold). Throughout the season, we will also be meeting at noon every Wednesday at Buffalo Grove Coffee Company, 605 SW E Avenue, for a “Lenten Lunch and Learn” where we will read and discuss a few of these beautiful and thoughtful devotionals every week. I hope to see you there!

Blessings and Peace,

Rev. Appleby

Pastor, First Christian Church of Lawton



Worship Corner - March 2022

Good Enough: Embracing the Imperfections of Life and Faith

A Worship Design Studio Lent Series based on the work of Kate Bowler



We live in a culture bent on definitions of a good life as continuous upward mobility—climbing ladders of prosperity with increasingly fabulous experiences that we can post to ever-more-likable social media accounts. We may comb the shelves of the self-help section in search of just the right formula to gain success. Perhaps we even gravitate towards spiritual leaders who promise great rewards if we only do “the right thing.” But life happens, right? Most times we are not moving upward but trying to repair the rung we’ve just slipped from. So what if we stopped climbing and started fertilizing, watering, and blooming right where we find ourselves? Welcome to a Lent of affirming a faith in which we are blessed, regardless, and where we can lean into embracing our “good enough” lives.

A Blessing for a Joyfully Mediocre Journey

"Blessed are you who realize there is simply not enough—time, money, resources.
Blessed are you who are tired of pretending that raw effort is the secret to perfection.

It's not. And you know that now.

Blessed are you who need a gentle reminder that even now, even today,
God is here, and somehow, that is good enough."

from [Good Enough: 40'ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection](#)

by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie.

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Ash Wednesday (March 2, 2022) - Perfectionism is impossible. Transformation isn't.

Worship Leader: Sage Appleby

Scripture: “And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward... but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” - Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Synopses: Jesus used the word “hypocrite” to describe those who put on airs in public to make people believe that they were holy, that their religious practice was... well... perfect. But their hearts were actually not in the practice, rather in the rewards that public approval could bring them—which is here today, often gone tomorrow. Sometimes it is life itself that robs us of the shiny, perfect life that we had planned for ourselves. A diagnosis. A broken heart. A lost opportunity. This Lent, rather than change for “the best,” we’ll seek to gain momentum one day at a time, “to reach for a faith that is never perfect, but good enough” (Bowler/Richie).

Lent 1 (March 6, 2022) - Ordinary lives can be holy.

Elders: David Aubrey, Becky Tannery

Worship Leader: Patsy Bassel

Scripture: Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’” - Luke 4: 1-13

Synopsis: We find ourselves hungry for many things that we believe will bring us satisfaction. The devil lays a bet that Jesus will jump at the chance for glory, fame, and the quick fix. Who wouldn’t? But Jesus keeps up the pithy one-liners long enough that the Tempster just has to slink away. What are the temptations that catch your ear, singing out promises that your life should be more special than it is? What if ordinary life is already holy—as is?



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Lent 2 (March 13, 2022) - So much is out of our control.

Elders: JoJo Aubrey, John Adair

Worship Leader: Lori Anderson

Scripture: “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’” - Luke 13: 31-35

Synopses: Even Jesus got dang frustrated when folks didn’t behave as he would have liked. We probably aren’t receiving death threats from Herod as Jesus was, but our wellbeing could be threatened by the idea that if we just try hard enough, are nice enough, say just the right thing, life will always go our way. We run around in so many directions, trying to herd the chicks into some imagined semblance of perfect formation (have you ever tried to herd chicks?). What if we could let go of needing all things and all people to be “just so” and instead learn to dance with the unfolding of that which is not ours to control?

Lent 3 (March 20, 2022) - Lots of things can be medicine.

Elders: John Adair, JoJo Aubrey

Worship Leader: Brian Birdwell

Scripture: Then [Jesus] told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'" - Luke 13:1-9

Synopses: Oh, the shame of the unproductive fig tree. Cut it down! Make room for a more dedicated and hard-working fig tree! Who among us is living up to our fullest potential? The productivity experts these days can diagnose what’s wrong and sell us the antidote in 3 amazing sessions for a low-low price that is guaranteed to turn our lives around. But the gardener offers an alternative medicine—nurture it slowly, letting it soak in the manure all around until it can get the good stuff out of it. Lying fallow and getting fertilized with laughter and tears at the crappy stuff of life can help heal what ails us and that is sometimes productive enough.



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Lent 4 (March 27, 2022) - We often believe we are the problem.

Elders: Lori Anderson, Becky Tannery

Worship Leader: Amber Delger

Scripture: "I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'" So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. - Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32

Synopses: The Prodigal Son lives high on the hog and then famine strikes in the land of his dream vacation. And so he heads home, tail between his legs, expecting that he has lost it all. To his surprise, his extravagant failure is met with extravagant love and grace. We can be pretty hard on ourselves when things don't go as planned. Guilt, shame, and fear of being seen as a failure can leave us wallowing in the pig pen. Our delusions of a perfectible life keep us disappointed in ourselves. Truth is, life is a big ole risk every single day and facing whatever each day holds is not only good enough, but worthy of love and grace.

Deacons for March

Rick Van Horn (Team Captain), Janice Logan, Teresa Adair



Thank You

Dearest First Christian Family,

Thank you for your sympathy and kindness. At this difficult time, we appreciate your prayers and thoughts. And, we are grateful. Thank you.

The Family of Bryan Wynne

Dear First Christian Family,

Our family thanks you for the beautiful flower arrangement, cards, prayers, and calls during the time my mother-in-law was sick and upon her passing. I feel so blessed to be part of such a supportive group of people.

Piper Saville



March 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<p>1 Noon - Taco Tuesday at Julio's Mexican Restaurant</p> <p>1 pm CWF Business Mtg In Parlor</p>	<p>2 Ash Wednesday</p> <p>5 pm Choir 5:30 pm To-go Sack Meal (chicken fritters) 6 pm Ash Wed Service</p>	<p>3</p> <p>5:30 pm Elders' Meeting by Zoom</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 10 am Girl Scouts in FW</p>
<p>6 10:30 am In-person and Virtual Worship. Installation of 2022 Church Leaders during in-person.</p>	<p>7 Monday Morning Minute on FCC YouTube Channel 6 pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>8 Noon - Taco Tuesday at Julio's Mexican Restaurant</p>	<p>9 Noon - Lenten Lunch and Learn at Buffalo Grove 5 pm Choir 5:30 pm To-go Sack Meal (chili dogs)</p>	<p>10 7 pm Anna Group Meets in Parlor</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13 Daylight Savings Time 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 10:30 am In-person and Virtual Worship</p>	<p>14 Monday Morning Minute on FCC YouTube Channel 6 pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>15 Noon - Taco Tuesday at Julio's Mexican Restaurant</p>	<p>16 Noon - Lenten Lunch and Learn at Buffalo Grove 5 pm Choir 5:30 pm To-go Sack Meal (chicken sandwiches)</p>	<p>17 St. Patrick's Day 6:30 pm FCC Board Meeting</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 8 am Hike in the Refuge 10 am Girl Scouts in FW</p>
<p>20 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 10:30 am In-person (with Worship and Wonder) and Virtual Worship</p>	<p>21 Monday Morning Minute on FCC YouTube Channel 6 pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>22 11:00 am Ruth Group Meets at Restaurant (TBD) Noon - Taco Tuesday at Julio's Mexican Restaurant</p>	<p>23 Noon - Lenten Lunch and Learn at Buffalo Grove 5 pm Choir 5:30 pm To-go Sack Meal (breakfast for dinner)</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 10:30 am In-person and Virtual Worship</p>	<p>28 Monday Morning Minute on FCC YouTube Channel 6 pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>29 Noon - Taco Tuesday at Julio's Mexican Restaurant</p>	<p>30 Noon - Lenten Lunch and Learn at Buffalo Grove 5 pm Choir 5:30 pm To-go Sack Meal (ham)</p>	<p>31</p>		

Joys to Share

- Linda Burleson has been declared cancer-free from pancreatic cancer!
- The Pratt Family have all recuperated from covid!
- Becky Ledesma's kitten Craig did not have a bad reaction to a poisonous flower he ate!

Those Who Have Lost Loved Ones

- Friends and family of Peggy Wilson's father and sister-in-law
- Friends and family of Penny Saville, Piper Saville's mother-in-law
- Friends and family of James Little, Denise Smith's friend

Other Prayer Concerns

- All of our armed forces and their families at home and abroad, including Samantha Mathews, Jimi Denning, Jazzy and Dillon Noland, Jack Oates, and Gavin Ledesma
- All who are recuperating from covid
- Jazzy and Dillon Noland and Baby Axel
- Bill Barker (health)
- Marge Lutz (healing at home) and daughter Melissa
- Sherri Denning (tendinitis and bursitis in shoulder)
- Don (recuperation from covid) and Phyllis Henke (health)
- Ron (on Hospice) and Beverly Honeycutt (recuperation from eye surgery)
- Mel Cassady (as he moves to VA Center and adjusts to living there)
- Delana Huggins (relief from pain)
- Coy (quitting smoking) and Peggy Citron (upcoming knee replacement surgery)
- Bill Kindt (needs relief from leg pain)
- Janet Mulley (Bill Kindt's sister healing from a stroke)
- Kathy (Bill Kindt's niece recuperating from risky stomach surgery)
- Robert and Colleen (Amber Delger's father who is in memory care and her step-mother)
- Wendy Nelson (Amber Delger's friend who may have lung cancer)
- Charles Trooper (Mary Denning's grandson in rehab)
- Lucille Perkins (Mary Denning's sister on Hospice)
- Fran Herring (Brian Herring's grandmother who has begun chemo)
- Karla Maudlin (Gaila Kindt's friend whose cancer has returned)
- Paul Jemison (Glenda Brown's friend who has cancer)
- Bob Brooks (father of Beverly Watson's older children)
- Ronnie Bagwell and Richard Terry (Becky Tannery's friends with cancer)
- Carmine (Becky Tannery's brother-in-law who had a heart attack)
- Randy (Becky Tannery's cousin) and his family. He is in the last stages of Alzheimer disease.
- Charles Hornbeck and Sandee Troy (Wendi Lindley's nephew with advanced liver disease and his mother, Wendi's sister)
- John (Helen Venniro's uncle who has steel brace through knees for three months as they heal)
- Piper Saville (leg pain)

Outreach/Agape Ministry



Wednesday To Go Meals (5:30 pm on the south side of the church building).

March Menu:

March 2-Chicken Fritters

March 9- Chili Dogs

March 16- Chicken Sandwiches

March 23- Breakfast for Dinner

March 30 - Ham

The AGAPE meal program needs your help: We need volunteers to work with one or more of the following teams. Each team needs at least 6 people. Any questions can be brought to Amber, or Konrad.

1st Wednesday: Tom and Jane Springli

2nd Wednesday: Amber and Konrad Delger

3rd Wednesday: Alisa Engler

4th Wednesday: Brian Birdwell and Patsy Bassel

5th Wednesday: June, August, November

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 are usually picked up almost as fast as they are put into the pantry! 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

Donations of dog food, cat food, and handwarmers are also requested. You may bring them to the church office. Thank you to all who have already donated items!



March Health Tips From Kathy Cooper, RN

Healthy Tips

1. Portion control - take your favorite snacks and put them in snack bags so when you are hungry you can grab a snack and not overeat.
2. Eat with your none dominant hand. This slows you down and allows you to feel satiated before you finish all your meal. (Unless of course you are ambidextrous.
3. Eat more veggies and less pasta.
4. Use nuts or seeds to have crunch in your salads rather than croutons, use vinegar and oil based dressings rather than creamy dressings.
5. Lean meats for proteins - baked, broiled or grilled. Avoid processed meats like bologna, salami, pepperoni, etc.
6. Laugh more - it's good for you!
7. Walk or some form of exercise 3 times a week for at least 30 minutes. If you can only do 5 minutes, then start there and work your way up.
8. Make small changes to your life routine in a gradual manner, and overtime you will see changes in your health. Choose one of the tips and do it for a month and see how you feel. Then perhaps add another change. Spring is coming!

Christian Women's Fellowship

CWF books are ready and were distributed on Feb 13th. If you did not receive one please see me or ask Piper for one in the church office. We are busy collecting for our spring community project. Janice Logan is the head of this project. She contacted Family Promise and discovered they needed paper products such as: **paper plates, napkins, trash bags (13 gallon size), Ziplock storage bags (gallon and quart - any brand), and tissues.** There is a box by the church office for your convenience. Collections for this project will end March 20th. Thank you for helping us with this project. We are gathering ideas for decorating the church for Easter, and that will be the topic of our business meeting on March 1, 2022.



CWF Members Nancy Davis, Janice Logan, Kathy Cooper, and Jane Springli place items into the Family Promise Donation Box

Happy Birthday!



- 3/2 Teresa Sherrill
 - 3/4 Chuck Russell
 - 3/14 Erika Whittenberg
 - 3/15 Delana Huggins
 - 3/21 Jane Springli
 - 3/21 Judy Bailey
 - 3/22 Klint Fountain
 - 3/23 Patsy Bassel
 - 3/25 Theresa Aubrey
 - 3/25 David Pratt
 - 3/27 Payne Davis
 - 3/28 Julie Davis
- (No March Anniversaries Listed)

Nursery Attendant Needed at FCC



We currently have an opening for a Nursery Attendant at FCC. Hours will be during Sunday mornings. This would be a great opportunity for someone who loves kids and is looking for a little extra spending money. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact the church office.

Daylight Savings Time Begins March 13th



It's that time of year again when we will be enjoying more hours of sunlight each day! Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 13th at 2:00 a.m. Therefore, to avoid being late to church, remember to **set your clocks forward one hour when you go to bed on Saturday, March 12th.**

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

Financial Secretary - Patty Neuwirth

Sound Technician - Brian Herring

Media Technicians - Evan Aubrey and John Bowman

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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