

# THE LAWTON CHRISTIAN

The official newsletter of the First Christian Church of Lawton



## IN THIS ISSUE:

- THIS MONTH AT FCC
- 2023 CHURCH LEADERS
- WEEK OF COMPASSION OFFERING
- CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP NEWS
- JANUARY BY THE NUMBERS
- FEBRUARY CALENDAR
- JANUARY WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP (PICTURES)
- AGAPE/OUTREACH MINISTRY
- THANK YOU
- FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES
- JOYS AND CONCERNS
- CHURCH STAFF & CONTACT INFORMATION

## This Month at FCC

This month there is so much going on in our worship services! February 2023 will see the conclusion of our Epiphany Series with special guest preachers: Deacon Amber Delger, Deacon Joseph Vanpool, and Elder John Adair; representatives of our Boy Scout troop will join us for worship and to recognize their relationship with First Christian Church; we will hold our annual installation of officers for 2023, and we will celebrate Ash Wednesday on February 22nd by kicking off our new Lenten series, "Lookin' for Love... In All the Wrong Places"

### Sunday, February 5th (Ezekiel and the Dry Bones: Healing Bodies)

**Scripture:** Ezekiel 37:1-14

**Songs:** "Come, You Disconsolate" (502); "Dry Bones" (arr. by Tom Fetke & Thomas Grassi); "Nurtured by the Spirit" (Chalice Praise 180)

**Speaker:** Amber Delger

**Elders:** Becky Tannery, John Adair

**Worship Leader:** Richard Van Horn

Continued on page 2

### **Sunday, February 12th (Jesus: In the Wilderness; Boy Scout Sunday & Installation of Officers)**

**Scripture:** Luke 4:1-14

**Songs:** "Trust and Obey" (CH 556); "The Lord Will Make a Way Somehow" (CH620); "Be Still, My Soul" (CH 566)

**Speaker:** Deacon Joseph Vanpool

**Elders:** John Adair, David Aubrey

**Worship Leader:** Joe Bailey

### **Sunday, February 19th (The Transfiguration: Truth Telling)**

**Scripture:** Luke 9:28-36

**Songs:** "Shine, Jesus, Shine"; "We Labor Unto Glory"; "Be Thou My Vision"

**Speaker:** Elder John Adair

**Elders:** JoJo Aubrey, Lori Anderson

**Worship Leader:** Jane Springli

### **Wednesday, February 22nd (Ash Wednesday: Lookin' for Love)**

**Scriptures:** Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Matthew 6:1-6; 16-21

**Songs:** "Dust and Ashes"; "Touch Me with Ashes"; "Change My Heart, O God"

**Worship Leader:** Sage Appleby

### **Sunday, February 26th (Lookin' for Love: Look for the Resister)**

**Scriptures:** Psalm 32; Matthew 4:1-11

**Songs:** "Lord Who Throughout These Forty Days"; "Show Us How to Love"; "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

**Elders:** Becky Tannery, David Aubrey

**Worship Leader:** Sheila Fountain

### **Deacons for February**

Patsy Bassel, Brian Birdwell, Deanna Deville

## **2023 Church Leaders**

**FCC Board Chair:** Brian Birdwell

**FCC Board Vice-Chair:** Deanna Deville

**FCC Board Secretary:** Richard Van Horn

**FCC Board Treasurer:** Sheila Fountain

**Education Co-chairs:** Nancy Davis and Joan Van Horn

**Membership Chair:** TBD

**Outreach Chair:** Joseph Vanpool

**Property Chair:** Sheila Fountain

**Stewardship Chair:** Church Office

**Worship Chair:** Richard Van Horn

**Deacon Chair:** Patsy Bassel

**Elders Chair:** John Adair

**Memorial Trust Chair:** Tom Springli

**Personnel Chair:** Becky Tannery

**ODW/CWF President:** Jane Springli

**Pastoral Relations Chair:** TBD

**Treasury Committee Chair:** Sheila Fountain

### **Ex-Officio Board Members**

**Pastor:** Rev. Paul Appleby

**Director of Music:** David C. Anderson

**Financial Secretary:** Piper Saville

## **Week of Compassion Offering**

Week of Compassion is the relief, refugee, and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. For nearly 80 years, Week of Compassion has pursued its mission, working with partners to alleviate suffering throughout the world, toward the vision of a world where God's people transform suffering into hope. We will collect this offering during worship on February 19th and 26th

# Christian Women's Fellowship/ OK Disciples Women News

Happy 2023 from the Christian Women's Fellowship of FCC. Our month of service began with a wonderful baby shower for the Wernette family. Their baby arrives soon, and we are anxious to welcome our newest member of FCC. A home delivered bereavement meal was provided for the Smith family. The Christmas decorations were packed away after the cantata was celebrated. The Food Bank Support outreach began this month.

Both groups had their monthly meetings and the executive committee met on the 1st Tuesday.

**Here are activities of each group of CWF:**

### Anna Group-evening meetings

- Organizes and serves bereavement meals-call Jane Springli at 580-583-2149
- Organizes membership potlucks
- Decorates the church for seasonal holidays
- Special occasion activities-baby showers etc.
- Organizes quarterly mission/outreach projects for the congregation
- Develops spiritual growth in a social situation

### Ruth Group-afternoon meetings

- Joins with FCC Outreach by collecting, organizing, cleaning, and opening the Clothes Closet weekly for the Agape Community. Denise Smith and her team serve diligently to meet the needs of anyone needing clothes, shoes, or accessories. This includes family emergency needs
- Develops spiritual growth in a social situation
- Assists Anna Group and participates in activities list above

If you are interested in joining either group, watch the church calendar and come on in!

Sincerely submitted,

Jane Springli, CWF President



## January By the Numbers

January Tithes and Offerings to Date to General Fund	<b>\$17,842.52</b>
January Expenses to Date for General Fund	<b>\$19,361.89</b>
Difference	<b>\$-1,519.37</b>
Balance Transfers for January from Special to General	<b>\$ 6,500.00</b>
January Average Sunday In-Person Worship Attendance was	<b>42.</b>
In January <b>283 meals</b> were served ( <b>26</b> were served to children)	



# February 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Noon - Book Study at Buffalo Grove 5 pm Clothes Closet Open 5:30 pm Agape Meal and Study 6 pm Choir	2 5:30 pm Elders	3 Noon - Just Games with Friends 5 pm Girl Scouts	4
5 10:30 am In-person Worship	6 Monday Morning Minute on FCC YouTube Channel 6 pm Boy Scouts	7 Noon - Taco Tuesday at Julio's Mexican Restaurant 1 pm CWF Business Mtg.	8 Noon - Book Study at Buffalo Grove 5 pm Clothes Closet Open 5:30 pm Agape Meal and Study 6 pm Choir	9 7 pm Anna Group meets In Parlor	10 5 pm Girl Scouts	11
12 Boy Scout Sunday 10:30 am In-person Worship (Installation of 2023 Church Leaders)	13 Monday Morning Minute on FCC YouTube Channel 1:30 pm Ruth Group at Atlanta Bread 6 pm Boy Scouts	14 Valentines Day Noon - Taco Tuesday at Julio's Mexican Restaurant	15 Noon - Book Study at Buffalo Grove 5 pm Clothes Closet Open 5:30 pm Agape Meal and Study 6 pm Choir	16 11:30 am Girls' Lunch Out	17 5 pm Girl Scouts	18
19 10:30 am In-person Worship (Week of Compassion Offering)	20 Presidents' Day Monday Morning Minute on FCC YouTube Channel 6 pm Boy Scouts	21 Noon - Taco Tuesday at Julio's Mexican Restaurant	22 Ash Wednesday Noon - Book Study at Buffalo Grove 5 pm Clothes Closet Open 5:30 pm Agape Meal and Study 6 pm Ash Wed Service	23 6:30 pm Board Meeting	24 5 pm Girl Scouts	25
26 10:30 am In-person Worship (Week of Compassion Offering)	27 Monday Morning Minute on FCC YouTube Channel 6 pm Boy Scouts	28 Noon - Taco Tuesday at Julio's Mexican Restaurant				

# January Worship and Fellowship



Taylor and Evan Aubrey during the Christmas Cantata.



The Choir performs the Christmas Cantata.



Oscar Emilien is happy to be in Worship!



Sherri and Mary Denning, JoJo Aubrey, Kathy and Jay Cooper enjoy the Wernette's baby shower.



Mark and Nicole Wernette show off their baby shower gift.



Joan Van Horn serves the punch at the baby shower



Gifts from the congregation at the baby shower for the Wernettes



Mark and Nicole Wernette show off their baby shower gift.



(Photos taken by Marilyn Bohlender and Paul Appleby)

## Agape/Outreach Ministry



### February Wednesay Agape Meal Menu (served at 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall).

#### February Menu:

**Feb. 1** - Beans and dogs, green beans, chips

**Feb. 8** - Chicken sandwiches, salad, fries

**Feb. 15** - Chicken soup with dinner rolls

**Feb. 22** - Spaghetti with meat sauce, salad, garlic bread

### Our Dannie and Rafie Clothes Closet is open each Wednesday from 5:00 pm to 5:30 pm prior to the meal.

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

## Thank You

I want to take a couple of minutes and thank you all for the love and support you have given me as well as my family during this time. Your prayers, cards and food helped us more than we can put into words. Having something here for us to eat when we came in from the trip was so awesome. Thank you CWF for doing this for us. I also wanted to thank my Heart Sisters for taking care of Charlie and Peppa for me and driving for us when needed. So many stepped up to the plate during this time. We are truly blessed to have each and every one of you in our lives.

May God bless you all for your kindness you have shown.

Your Sister in Christ,  
Denise Smith and Family.

\* \* \* \* \*

I can't possibly tell you how much all of your prayers, calls, texts, cards, meals, and just love mean to my family and me. This family of ours here at FCC feels the joys and sorrows of each of us. It is something we have all felt but can't put into words. Thank you so much for your love.

Janice Logan and Family

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

2/2 Ron Shepherd      2/24 Rick Van Horn

2/9 Jim Floyd          2/25 Hilde Bilvaise

2/10 Konrad Delger    2/28 Ro Bielinski

2/18 Peyton Davis

2/2 Earl and Delana Huggins

2/8 Paul and Sage Appleby

2/28 Don and Margaret Littig

## Joys and Concerns



### We praise God and rejoice with the following who have improved health:

- Beverly Watson's daughter
- Anna Maria Herbert
- Debby (Jane Springli's sister)
- Melissa Pratt
- Delana Huggins
- Sandee and Charles (Wendi Lindley's sister and nephew)
- Dahlia May Bushman (Joe Bailey and Betty Aliff's new great-granddaughter) and her mother
- Samantha Miller
- Darlene Miller
- Jim Horner (Lori and David Anderson's friend)
- Bobby Poe (Jane Springli's friend)

### We pray for these who have lost loved ones:

- Denise Smith and her family following her father's death
- Family and friends of Juanita Brown
- Family and friends of Thomas Clark. (husband of Anna Maria Herbert's youngest daughter Belinda)
- Friends and family of Helen Venirro
- Friends and family of Bill Logan
- Friends and family of Lisa McKinstry (Pastor Brandon Johnson's mother)
- The Suson family (friends of Denise Smith)

### These with ongoing concerns appreciate your continued prayers:

- Rev. Wayne Ashlock (former FCC pastor who had stroke; is going through a long rehab) and his wife Cindy
- Nancy Davis (healing from two cataract surgeries)
- Baby Mila (friend of Ann Werner) born very small; has many health issues
- Amber Delger (bruised and painful ribs from a recent fall; will have an MRI to check out a spot on her liver)
- Ronnie and Donna Bagwell (friends of Glenda Brown - Ronnie is having cancer treatments)
- Axel, Jazzy, and Dillon Noland
- Lori Anderson (back issues that are affecting her leg)
- Shelley Forrester (prayers of support)
- Bill Kindt (recuperating at home)
- Mel Cassady (health issues)
- Pat Cassady (prayers for peace and comfort)
- Kerrie Oates (pressures of full-time nursing school and family)
- Aaron (Ursula Asuncion's son who is having health issues)
- Darlene Miller (continued good health)
- Shirley Bradley (Melissa Pratt's friend diagnosed with cancer)
- Blaise Bailey (Joe Bailey's granddaughter), serving in the navy, is suffering from fibromyalgia
- Joanna Price (co-worker of Joe Bailey's daughter who has multiple health issues)
- Michelle and John-Mark Henke (friends of Joe Bailey's granddaughter). Michelle has a serious undiagnosed medical condition
- Pat Cassady's sister
- Carmine (Becky Tannery's brother-in-law who is in the hospital with covid pneumonia) and his wife Jana
- Fran Herring (Brian Herring's grandmother who is awaiting cancer surgery)

# Church Staff and Contact Information

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

**Administrative Assistant/Financial Secretary - 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

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.

**ADDRESS SERVICE  
REQUESTED.**

**Place label here**