

THE LAWTON CHRISTIAN

The official newsletter of the First Christian Church of Lawton



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Let's Get Moving!

by Rev. Paul Appleby

Family of God at First Christian Church,

You may have noticed that new life is springing up all around us. The flowers are blooming, the birds are singing, and the birds have returned in force. New life and new activity are the order of the day here at First Christian as well! Our Agape meal is returning to indoor service with newly minted meal teams taking up the work of feeding our community. Our Wednesday evening Bible Study will be resuming as we “Feast on the Word” after we have had the opportunity to break bread together. This year, we are not only meeting in-person for Easter after the past two years of interruptions to our normal worship schedule, but we will be adding a Maundy Thursday service to our celebration of Holy Week as an opportunity to reflect on the significance of that last meal Jesus shared with his friends.

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As the Easter season progresses, our attention will turn from the “Good Enough” focus of Lent to a renewed call to be about the work of life, love and justice in our world. So, as you appreciate the beauty of our sanctuary (made all the more beautiful thanks to the work of some of the ladies of our church as we decorate for Easter), and the beauty of the earth as it comes into bloom, take a moment to appreciate the beauty of the future to which God is calling us. A future where love wins, life triumphs over death, and justice rolls down like a river.

Blessings and Peace,
Rev. Appleby

Worship Corner - April 2022

The month of April marks a change of seasons in the life of the church. The quiet introspection of Lent gives way to the joyous celebration of Easter as we proclaim anew the message of Christ’s triumph over the powers of death and destruction.

It is our hope that you find these services meaningful and memorable.

Lent 5 (4/3): We are fragile.

Elders: John Adair, David Aubrey

Worship Leader: Sam Bowman

Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume... Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

-Scripture: John 12: 1-8

Jesus speaks the words no one wanted to admit: he was not always going to be around. “Oh, don’t say that,” so many of us have said to a loved one who speaks the truth about the fragility of life. Perhaps we get uncomfortable because it reveals the precious nature of the present moment, laying bare the beauty and horror of it all. The indescribable pain we know we will one day face invades our senses like a pervasive perfume, inescapable.

What if we stopped denying the limited nature of our lives and breathed in deeply the fragrance of vulnerability?

Deacons for April

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

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Lent 6 - Palm Sunday (4/10): You are a group project.

Elders: David Aubrey, Lori Anderson

Worship Leader: Brian Birdwell

As he rode along... the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!" Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

-Scripture: Luke 19: 28-40

Jesus orchestrated a low-budget parade into a city where he knew his days were numbered. "Get me a colt," he said. Not a steed. Not a float. A young, green donkey (not the color, that's horse-speak for not-ridden-alot-yet). And folks gathered and his friends started some liturgical shouting that ticked off the local priests. Life is hard and we all need friends and sometimes big, loud, praying that will not be messed with. We are created for interdependence. So all our hiding and pretending that we are "perfectly fine" all on our own just won't work.

Get on the donkey when you need to and let people lay down their cloaks for you and make some noise for you. 'Cause you know you'll do it for them too when the chips are down.

Maundy Thursday (4/14): We are blessed, regardless.

"Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

-**Scripture:** John 13: 1-17, 31b-35

The mid-20th century brought a particular shift as televangelists began to speak of blessing as a "pact" with God in which our good works (mostly our good wallets) would multiply the prosperity in our lives. But for Jesus, this moment in the Upper Room was full of trouble, danger, deception, and uncertainty.

Surely Jesus, Son of God, had enough blessing capital to out-manuever this set of circumstances!

In the midst of the pain of his moment, Jesus defines the real blessing pact—washing feet, breaking the bread, lifting the cup, sharing even with those who are about to betray him. Love that cannot be quantified reminds us that each and every person is blessed, always, regardless of who we are, how we've failed, or what we've accomplished.

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A Good (Enough) Friday (4/15): Even today, God is here and somehow, that is good enough.

“They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.”

- **Scripture:** John 18: 1-19, 42

Some days are just lousy and that doesn't even begin to cover it. The first recorded use of "good friday" was in the South English Legendary, a text from 1290. Calling a day "good" was a way to denote a time of holy observance, not judge it as a pretty solid "8" on the scale of fabulousness.

What if even our lousiest days could be experienced as a holy observance of the reality that this is life?

Perhaps the "good news" in the midst of the devastation is that God is buried with us in our deepest pain, wrapping us, holding us until we can move through that birth canal once again into renewed life.

Easter Sunday (4/17): Welcome Home!

Elders: Sage Appleby, John Adair

Worship Leader: Joe Bailey

“The angel spoke to the women:

'There is nothing to fear here. I know you're looking for Jesus, the One they nailed to the cross. He is not here. He was raised, just as he said.'”

- (Matthew 28:1-9)

Our world follows predictable, and often brutal patterns. The victory goes to the most fit, even if it comes through deception, cheating, and lying. Things breakdown, age, wear out, and are torn up. Throughout life we find ourselves being displaced, disjointed, discouraged, and discomforted as everything around us changes at an ever-increasing pace.

What if we knew that things wouldn't always be this way?

Thankfully, in the resurrection of Jesus, God signals that the times are indeed a changin', but the future God has in store for our world is one in which "love" and "life" are the final words.

In the resurrection we are given a glimpse of what we all long for: a word of welcome to all of us who find ourselves weary and heavy laden.

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The Second Sunday of Easter (4/24) – “Child of God: Naming Each One”

Elders: Becky Tannery, Sage Appleby

Worship Leader: Patsy Bassel

“So, what are we going to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us?... Who will separate us from Christ’s love? Will we be separated by trouble, or distress, or harassment, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, We are being put to death all day long for your sake. We are treated like sheep for slaughter.[a] But in all these things we win a sweeping victory through the one who loved us. I’m convinced that nothing can separate us from God’s love in Christ Jesus our Lord: not death or life, not angels or rulers, not present things or future things, not powers or height or depth, or any other thing that is created.”

- Romans 8: 31-39 (CEB)

In our baptismal rituals, we take a special moment to repeat the precious name of the person being baptized. In a world that seems obsessed with who is “right and wrong,” “good or bad,” “in or out” or on “this side or that side,” it is a radical endeavor to name each person as “Child of God”—no matter what people say. This, indeed, is where love of the other begins... love for the self, as God loves us.

The Third Sunday of Easter (5/1) – “How Long: Renouncing Evil”

Elders: Lori Anderson, Becky Tannery

Worship Leader: Jane Springli

“How long will you forget me, Lord? Forever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long will I be left to my own wits, agony filling my heart? Daily? How long will my enemy keep defeating me? Look at me! Answer me, Lord my God! Restore sight to my eyes! Otherwise, I’ll sleep the sleep of death, and my enemy will say, “I won!” My foes will rejoice over my downfall. But I have trusted in your faithful love. My heart will rejoice in your salvation. Yes, I will sing to the Lord because the Lord has been good to me.”

- Psalm 13 (CEB)

Over half of the liturgical songs of the Israelites were Psalms of Lament. Penned in a time of exile and persecution, these were poets trying to give voice to the pain of the people.

Today we lament the injustice of our time and yet, like the Psalms of Lament, we end in praise anyway for “God is good, all the time.” We remember that even and especially in times of despair, through our baptism we are given the “freedom and power to resist evil in all its forms” as we “put our whole trust in God.” How will we put these words into action to show hope to the world?

Deacons for April

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

Agape Ministry



Beginning Wednesday, April 6th, our Wednesday Meal will be served in our Fellowship Hall from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm. Following the dinner, Pastor Paul 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!

April Menu:

April 6 - Grilled Ham and Cheese Sandwiches

April 13 - Chicken Fritter, Mashed Potatoes, Vegetable

April 20 - McRib Type Sandwiches

April 27 - Spaghetti

Also beginning Wednesday April 6th, our Dannie and Rafie Clothes Closet will be open each Wednesday from 5:00 pm to 5:30 pm prior to the meal. 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 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 and cat food are also requested. You may bring them to the church office. Thank you to all who have already donated items!



April 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 10 am Girl Scouts in FW
3 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 10:30 am In-person Worship Noon - Online Worship on FCC YouTube Channel	4 Monday Morn- ing Minute on FCC YouTube Channel 1 pm CWF Business Mtg In Parlor 5:30 pm Elders' Meeting by Zoom 6 pm Boy Scouts	5 Noon - Taco Tuesday at Julio's Mexican Restaurant 1 pm Staff Mtg 5:30 pm Choir	6 Noon - Lenten Lunch and Learn at Buffalo Grove 5 pm Clothes Closet Open 5:30 pm Agape Meal and Study	7	8	9
10 Palm Sunday 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 10:30 am In-person Worship (with Worship and Wonder) Noon - Online Worship	11 Monday Morn- ing Minute on FCC YouTube Channel 6 pm Boy Scouts	12 Noon - Taco Tuesday at Julio's Mexican Restaurant 5:30 pm Choir 7 pm Anna Group Meets in Parlor	13 Noon - Lenten Lunch and Learn at Buffalo Grove 5 pm Clothes Closet Open 5:30 pm Agape Meal and Study	14 Maundy Thursday 6 pm Maundy Thursday Service	15 Good Friday 6 pm Good Friday Service	16 8 am Hike in the Refuge 10 am Girl Scouts in FW
17 Easter 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 10:30 am In-person Worship Noon - Online Worship on FCC YouTube	18 Tax Day Monday Morn- ing Minute on FCC YouTube Channel 6 pm Boy Scouts	19 11:00 am Ruth Group Meets at Restaurant (TBD) Noon - Taco Tuesday at Julio's Mexican Restaurant 1 pm - Staff Mtg 5:30 pm Choir	20 5 pm Clothes Closet Open 5:30 pm Agape Meal and Study	21 6:30 pm FCC Board Meeting	22	23 1:30 pm WUFA
24 10:30 am In-person Worship Noon - Online Worship on FCC YouTube Channel	25 Monday Morn- ing Minute on FCC YouTube Channel 6 pm Boy Scouts	26 Noon - Taco Tuesday at Julio's Mexican Restaurant 1 pm Staff Mtg 5:30 pm Choir	27 5 pm Clothes Closet Open 5:30 pm Agape Meal and Study	28	29	30

Joys to Share

- Becky Tannery says that her cousin Randy is doing well and is in a good routine.
- Becky also shares that Richard Terry and Ronnie Bagwell are doing well with their cancer treatments.
- Gaila Kindt shares that Bill's sister Janet and niece Kathy are doing much better.
- Wendi Lindley shares that her nephew Charles is now working, and her sister Sandee may soon come for a visit!
- Mary Denning shares that her grandson Charles got the job he was hoping for!

Those Who Have Lost Loved Ones

- Jane Springli asks us to pray for the Woods family. Please pray for comfort and peace as they deal with the death of their son. They are friends of Randy Springli.

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
- Those in Ukraine
- Bill Kindt (healing from hip surgery; in therapy)
- Don and Phyllis Henke (health)
- Ron and Beverly Honeycutt (health)
- Mel Cassady (as he adjusts to living at the VA Center)
- Bill Barker (health)
- Sherri Denning (undergoing testing for possible cancer reoccurrence)
- Jazzy, Dillon, and Baby Axel
- Delana Huggins (relief from neck pain)
- Marjorie Lutz (healing at home) and her daughter Melissa
- Darlene Miller (in therapy for back pain)
- Heather Graham (Beverly and John Watson's daughter awaiting open heart surgery)
- Olesia (Sherri Denning's friend in Ukraine, who is preparing to fight for her country)
- Lucille Perkins (Mary Denning's sister on Hospice)
- Fran Herring (Brian Herring's grandmother who is undergoing chemo)
- Carmine (Becky Tannery's brother-in-law in rehab for a stroke)
- Robert (Amber Delger's father who is in memory care) and his wife Colleen
- Wendy Nelson (Amber Delger's friend who has a rare form of lung cancer and is awaiting surgery to remove a lung)
- John (Helen Venniro's uncle who is going through physical therapy following surgery for two broken knees)
- Bob Brooks (father of Beverly Watson's older children who is on Hospice)



April Health Tip - To Drink or Not to Drink Water? From Kathy Cooper, RN

We hear a lot about how good water is for us to drink so I thought this month we would take a look at the benefits of drinking water. Jay and I recently purchased a filtration system for our house which came with a reverse osmosis water system. We noticed such a change in the taste of water. It is delicious with reverse osmosis as there are no minerals or salts in the water.

Benefits of Drinking Water

Getting enough water every day is important for your health. Drinking water can prevent dehydration, a condition which may cause unclear thinking, mood changes, your body to overheat, constipation and kidney stones.

Water helps your body:

- Keep a normal temperature.
- Lubricate and cushion joints.
- Protect your spinal cord and other sensitive tissues.
- Get rid of wastes through urination, perspiration, and bowel movements.

Your body needs more water when you are in a hot climate, active physically, running a fever, having diarrhea or vomiting. When more physically active you should drink water before you are thirsting. By the time you are thirsty you are already dehydrated. Did you know our bodies are about 60% water? Water keeps our brains working, our muscles and cells functioning and is necessary for metabolism of nutrients. Most of your fluid needs are met through the water and beverages you drink. You can get some fluids through the foods that you eat – especially foods with high water content, such as many fruits and vegetables.

Tips to Drink Increase Water Consumption

- Carry a water bottle with you and refill it throughout the day.
- Freeze some freezer safe water bottles. Take one with you for ice-cold water all day long.
- Choose water over sugary drinks.
- Opt for water when eating out. You'll save money and reduce calories.
- Serve water during meals.
- Add a wedge of lime or lemon to your water. This can help improve the taste and help you drink more water than you usually do. I especially like lemon, orange, blueberries or strawberries.
- Eat more fruits and vegetables such as melons, citrus, cucumbers, leafy greens, apples, tomatoes, celery and carrots.

The answer to the question for me is a definite yes, and I hope you are convinced as well.

Christian Women's Fellowship

CWF ladies met on March 29th to organize and arrange lilies for our Easter service. You can preview them in the Parlor if you are interested. We plan to meet on the Saturday before Easter to decorate the church. On Sunday, April 3rd, we presented Sage Applebee with a card for Pastor Wives Appreciation and a gift card in honor of her service to our church. We held the business meeting on Monday, April 4th at 1:00 p.m. rather than on Tuesday, and the Anna group will meet on the 12th of April (change due to a conflict with Maundy Thursday service) in the church parlor at 7:00 p.m. The Ruth group will meet, and please contact Marilyn Bohlender if interested. Thank you to all who contributed to our Family Promise Project. Janice Logan delivered the items, and the Family Promise personnel were delighted with our efforts.

Patty Neuwirth to Retire from FCC



Patty Neuwirth is retiring from First Christian Church after working as our Financial Secretary since 1995. However, she will stay very busy as she continues to be the Executive Director of the Lawton Philharmonic Orchestra and the President of the Lawton Public Schools Board of Education. Patty is very involved in many other community activities here in Lawton to include Habitat for Humanity, Lawton Public Library Board, Friends of the Library, and Lawton Community Theater.

Most important to her, though, is spending time with her three grandchildren Greyson, Allison, and Patton. Please wish Patty well! We plan to have a "retirement lunch" for her, so watch for details

Choir Practice Time Change



Our First Christian Church Choir is now meeting on **Tuesdays at 5:30 pm**. If you would like to sing in the choir, please contact Director of Music David Anderson at davidtunespianos@gmail.com

Happy Birthday!



4/1 Lorre Reiner
 4/15 Jimi Denning
 4/16 Sherri Denning
 4/16 Jennifer Gubisch
 4/23 Cindy Davis
 4/25 Kerrie Oates
 4/25 Hilde Wells

Happy Anniversary



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

If you have a birthday or anniversary that we have forgotten to put in the newsletter, please inform the church office.

Easter Special Offering



We will be collecting the Easter Offering Sunday April 10th and Sunday April 17th during worship. This offering supports the ministries of the Christian Church on the national level. For more information, please go to disciplesmissionfund.org

Upcoming Events Around Lawton

- **Friends of the Library** Annual Book Sale April 7-10 located in the east side of Lawton Central Plaza (Mall) 200 SW C Avenue. Proceeds will help fund library programs and activities throughout the year.
- **Southwest Pride Barbershop Chorus** presents "Barbershop Goes to Washington" April 8 and 9, 7:30 p.m., McMahon Memorial Auditorium, 801 NW Ferris.
- **The Lawton Philharmonic Orchestra** Presents "Cowboys and Fiddlers" featuring Kyle Dillingham on April 23rd, 7:30 pm, McMahon Memorial Auditorium, 801 NW Ferris.

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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