

THE LAWTON CHRISTIAN

The official newsletter of the First Christian Church of Lawton



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We're Back!

by Rev. Paul Appleby

Family of God at FCC,

I am thrilled to inform you that our church board has voted to reopen our sanctuary for public worship services starting Easter Sunday (April 4th) at 10:30 AM. It has been difficult being closed and distanced these many months, but with an improved outlook for the area and the large number of congregants who have been immunized against this potentially deadly illness we feel that now is the time to begin something new! While we will still have social distancing protocols in place, and we are asking that folks wear masks when in worship, our services will feel more like they did prior to the outbreak of COVID-19, and provided further progress is made, we may be able to return to the "old normal" of shared breakfasts, church potlucks, and hugging our friends in the near future.

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Upon our reopening we will commence with a worship series titled A Day of New Beginnings. This will be our theme as we enter the season of Eastertide and celebrate the new beginning that our Creator started with all of creation at the Resurrection. Be sure to check out the Worship Corner in this newsletter for more details. Further, as we look to breathe some new life into our worship, we are looking for input from you as we plan music for the coming months, so please check out the article from David Anderson and me. We are looking for your input and it will enable us to plan ahead as we look to prepare services that are meaningful and memorable for all.

Finally, I want to applaud you for all of the sacrifices you have made in this past year. Staying safe and staying home have been difficult decisions, and while we have lost a few long-time members to COVID-19 during this past year, no one has contracted it when coming out to worship here at the First Christian Church of Lawton. You've done the right thing by staying safe and keeping the most vulnerable in our congregation healthy and you deserve to be commended- way to go!

Thank you, again for all you do for our congregation. Your assistance during this strange season of ministry has been crucial for our whole community.

Peace in Christ,



Rev. Paul Appleby



Worship Corner - Easter 2021

by Rev. Paul Appleby

“This is a Day of New Beginnings!”

Easter has come, Christ is risen, and the world is springing to life once again all around us. We are springing to new life too! After a long hiatus as we sought to keep our most vulnerable friends safe from the spread of COVID-19 we are once again meeting, praying, and praising in person. Join with us as we celebrate all the newness that God is bringing to us as we emerge from a protracted and difficult year to discover the day of new beginnings unfolding before our eyes. While we are returning to worshiping in person, we will still have our Virtual Worship Services available for those who are unable to attend as well as the new members of our extended church family who worship from afar. All our services, online and in person, will contain the same themes and similar messages.

Easter Day (4/4)- A New Way to Live

Even after the tragedy of Jesus’s final week, his betrayal, isolation, and horrific death, we learn today that it is not death and defeat but life and victory that get the final word. So too, it is with us. No matter the sorrows and depths we have fallen to, in light of Christ’s resurrection God has shown us a new way to live- and it is with the lifeforce of God himself.

Scriptures: Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; John 20:1-18

Songs: “Christ the Lord is Risen Today” (Chalice Hymnal 216); “Crown Him with Many Crowns” (Chalice Hymnal 234; “This Is a Day of New Beginnings” (Chalice Hymnal 518)



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2nd Sunday of Easter (4/11)- A New Faith

Okay, maybe a new understanding of faith. Each of our scriptures today talks about a different aspect of the biblical definition of faith (that is, faith as a belief that a thing is true, faith as behaving in a way that is consistent with one's convictions [walking the talk], faith as trust that a certain outcome will be experienced on the basis of the trustworthiness of the guarantor of said outcome, and faith as holding a shared vision for the future with someone).

Scriptures: Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133; 1 John 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-31

Songs: "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" (Chalice Hymnal 517), "Just a Closer Walk with Thee" (Chalice Hymnal 517), "Trust and Obey" (Chalice Hymnal 556)

3rd Sunday of Easter (4/18)- A New Understanding

The world looks different in light of the Resurrection. In today's service we will look at some of the ways in which the Resurrection changes our understanding of how God works in the world, who we are as people, and what it means to live life after life.

Scriptures: Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48

Songs: "Open the Eyes of My Heart" (Chalice Praise 37), "Be Thou My Vision" (Chalice Hymnal 595), "Once We Were No People"

4th Sunday of Easter (4/25)- A New Leader

There is a phrase that summarizes much about the spirit of the times, "the tyranny of the self." There is the constant temptation to live as though our wants are the most important, our opinions are the right ones to hold, and that what we want to do in any given moment is the right thing to do. What seems at first pass to be a refreshing and empowering perspective can quickly turn against us. Thankfully God, through the work of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit, is here to provide us with a new leader and a new example to hold ourselves up to.

Scriptures: Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23; 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18

Songs: "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" (Chalice Hymnal 5), "The Church's One Foundation" (Chalice Hymnal 272), "Have Thine Own Way" (Chalice Hymnal 588)



Worship Leaders



April 4

Elders: John Adair, David Aubrey

Worship Leader: Kathy Cooper

April 11

Elders David Aubrey, Joe Bailey

Worship Leader: Rick Van Horn

April 18

Elders: Sage Appleby, John Adair

Worship Leader: Patsy Bassel

April 25

Elders: Becky Tannery, Sage Appleby

Worship Leader: Sheila Fountain

Deacons for April: Tom Springli (Team Captain), Jane Springli, Amber Delger, Vickie Johnson Flores, and Vicky Flores

FCC Email Address Change

Please send your emails to the church office at office@fcclawton.org. This is the email address that is on the front of the recent 2020 FCC Pictorial Directory. (We are not using the old fccadmin@sbcglobal.net) Also, if you have any church friends who say they have not received an email from the church office recently, please have them check either their spam folder or their junk email.

Name That Tune



Music, it has the ability to speak to our souls. It can uplift us. It can transport us. It is an important part of our worship and our lives.

In order to expand our musical repertoire and to ensure that we are making meaningful and memorable music, Pastor Paul and Music Minister David Anderson are asking us to let them know our favorite hymns and contemporary Christian songs so that we can incorporate more of the music that has helped to form us into our Sunday worship.

Of course, songs will still be selected to reinforce the themes of our services, but we would love to have some guidance from members like you, as we work to bring you high quality services that speak to your souls. To let us know the songs that speak to you, simply email Pastor Paul at pastor@fcclawton.org with a list of your favorite songs (up to ten) so we can form a short-list for worship planning. Once the list is compiled, David and Paul will be hard at work curating it for our upcoming services.

Agape Ministry



Wednesday To-Go Meals (5:30 - 6:30 pm) are as follows:

April 7 - Chicken Fritters

April 14 - Beef Sandwiches

April 21 - Pulled Pork

April 28 - BBQ Beef/Chicken Sandwiches

Thank you to **all who are currently helping** with the Wednesday To-Go Dinners! This is a wonderful ministry! We want to thank **Hilde Bilvais** for providing dry dog and cat food to our AGAPE folks. If any of our pet lovers would like to donate dry pet food it would be appreciated. Hilde also provided hand and body warming packets. Thank you also to **Deanna Deville** for supplying socks to those who need them at the Wednesday To-Go Dinners. Since she began, Deanna has donated over **2,100 pairs** of socks!

Soon we will be starting to serve dinner and breakfast inside, and we need volunteers for Wednesday night cooking teams. **If you are willing and able to volunteer to be on a team, please contact Konrad, Amber, or the church office.**

Our Outdoor Pantry Box is always in need of donations, which are usually picked up almost as fast as they are put into the pantry! Useful items include **ready-to-eat foods such as fruits, fresh vegetables, bread, cheese and crackers, peanut butter, cereal, canned meats with easy-open tops, and bottled water.**



April 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Maundy Thursday	2 Good Friday 6 pm Virtual Good Friday Service on FCC YouTube Channel	3 Holy Saturday
4 Easter Sunday 10:30 am In-Person and Virtual Worship	5 Monday Morning Minute on FCC YouTube Channel	6 10 am CWF (Christian Women's Fellowship) Business Meeting	7 5:30 pm To-go Sack Meal	8 7 pm Anna Group meets in the Parlor	9	10
11 10:30 am In-Person and Virtual Worship 11:30 am Worship Committee	12 Monday Morning Minute on FCC YouTube Channel	13 Ruth Group - to be announced.	14 5:30 pm To-go Sack Meal	15 6:30 pm FCC Board Meeting	16	17
18 10:30 am In-Person and Virtual Worship	19 Monday Morning Minute on FCC YouTube Channel	20	21 5:30 pm To-go Sack Meal	22	23	24 10:30 am Heart Sisters meet at Pam Shepherd's Home
25 10:30 am In-Person and Virtual Worship	26 Monday Morning Minute on FCC YouTube Channel	27	28 5:30 pm To-go Sack Meal	29	30	



Joys

- Virginia Lucas has a new great-grandson, Cooper Hayes Crowell!
- Don Henke is feeling much better!
- Sandi Pounds, Amber Delger's friend, has recovered from COVID enough to go home from the hospital!
- Chuck Russell is doing very well following his recent hip surgery!
- Teresa Sherrill is also recovering just fine following her recent hip surgery!
- Patti DiLeo is in recovery from COVID and hopeful to return home as soon as her breathing is under control

Prayer Concerns (COVID)

- Wendy Nelson (Amber Delger's friend in long-term rehab from COVID)
- Patty DiLeo (friend of the daughter of the secretary at Westside Christian Church in Duncan)
- Teachers, students, and educational staff
- All hospital staff
- Those who are quarantining

Prayer Concerns for those who have lost loved ones

- Friends and family of Melvin McGuffin
- Friends and family of Linda Killiam (Bill Kindt's sister)
- Friends and family of Mark Salo (husband of a friend of Joe Bailey's daughter Bobbi)
- Friends and family of Jeb (JoJo Aubrey's brother who died)
- Friends and family of Dee Givens (Teresa Adair's brother-in-law) who died suddenly while visiting family in Lawton
- Friends and family of Stewart Ronald (Wendi Lindley's friend). His wife also recently died of COVID.

Prayer Concerns (Cancer)

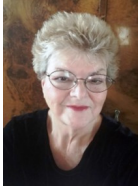
- Matthew Fullerton (Lori Anderson's brother-in-law / David's brother)
- Darla (the mother of Becky Tannery's niece)
- Anne (the sister of Ro Bielinski's friend)
- Holli Hill Scholtz (former FCC musician)
- Jerry Foster (Joe Bailey's cousin)
- Karla Maudlin (Becky Tannery's friend)
- Richard Terry (Becky Tannery's friend)
- Susie Garrett (Mother of Becky Tannery's daughter's friend)
- Kathy (Melissa Pratt's sister)

Other Health Concerns

- Charles Hornbeck (Wendi Lindley's nephew hospitalized with advanced liver disease)
- Kaylee (Cindy Davis' granddaughter seeing an endocrinologist)
- Sherri Denning (waiting on doctors' guidance)
- Don Nelson (Amber Delger's friend waiting for surgery for blocked artery behind his eye)
- Chuck Russell (physical therapy/recovery from hip surgery)
- Mary Denning (adjusting to a new heart medication that is working so far)
- Don and Phyllis Henke (health issues)
- Ursula Asuncion's husband (health issues)
- Mark Fanti (healing slowly from a broken hip)
- Coy and Peggy Citron (health reasons)
- Barbee and Bill Barker (continued strength for Bill. Barbee is in rehab after a hospital stay)
- Marge and Melissa Lutz (health issues)

Other Concerns

- Amber Delger (taking a difficult class)
- Gavin Ledesma (Becky Saville Ledesma's husband who is getting used to his new job in the military)
- Please pray for our city, our country, our leaders, our troops, and the world during this difficult time.



CDC Guidance Post Vaccination From Kathy Cooper, RN

Have You Been Fully Vaccinated?

People are considered fully vaccinated:

- 2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, like the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or
- 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, like Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine

If it has been less than 2 weeks since your shot, or if you still need to get your second dose, you are NOT fully protected. Keep taking all prevention steps until you are fully vaccinated.

Let's talk about What's Changed if you've been fully vaccinated:

- You can gather indoors with fully vaccinated people without wearing a mask.
- You can gather indoors with unvaccinated people from one other household (for example, visiting with relatives who all live together) without masks, unless any of those people or anyone they live with has an increase risk for COVID-19, you do not need to stay away from others or get tested unless you have symptoms.
 - * However, if you live in a group setting and are around someone who has COVID-19, you should still stay away from others for 14 days and get tested, even if you don't have symptoms.

What Hasn't Changed if you've been fully vaccinated:

- You should still take steps to protect yourself and others, like wearing a mask, staying at least 6 feet apart from others, and avoiding crowds and poorly ventilated spaces. Take these precautions whenever you are:
 - * In public
 - * Gathering with unvaccinated people from more than one other household
 - * Visiting with an unvaccinated person who is at increased risk of severe illness or death from COVID-19 or who lives with a person at increased risk
- You should still avoid medium or large-sized gatherings.
- You should still delay domestic and international travel.
- You should still watch out for symptoms of COVID-19, especially if you've been around someone who is sick. If you have symptoms of COVID-19, you should get tested and stay home and away from others.
- You will still need to follow guidance at your workplace.

What We Know and What We're Still Learning

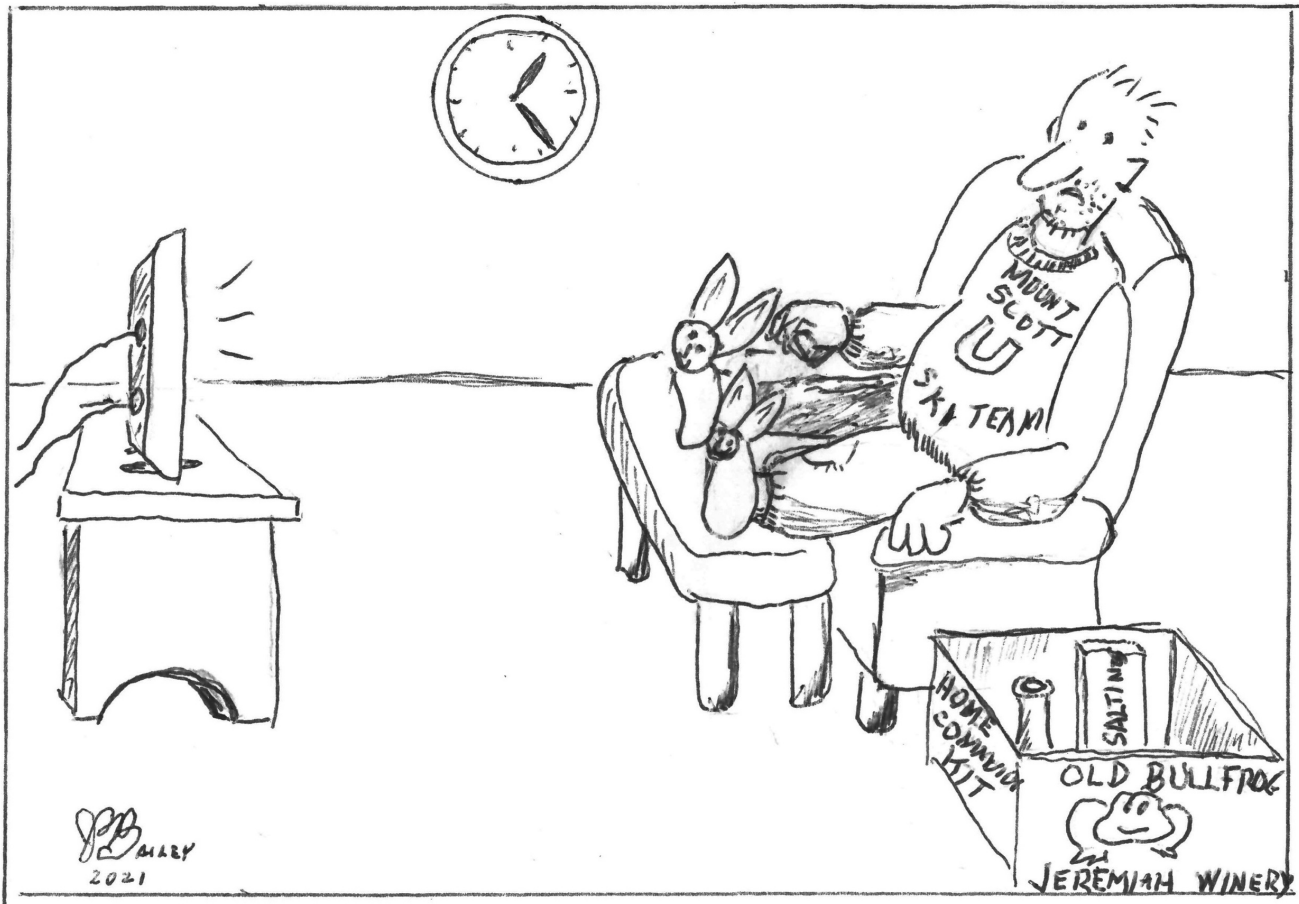
- We know COVID-19 vaccines are effective at preventing COVID-19 disease, especially severe illness and death.
- We are still learning how effective the vaccines are against variants of the virus that cause COVID-19. Early data show the vaccines may work against some variants but could be less effective against others; and how long the vaccines provide protection.

Christian Women's Fellowship News (Oklahoma Disciples Women)

Business meeting was held on March 2, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. in the church parlor. Officers discussed resuming the **business meetings on the first Tuesday of the month at 10 a.m. in the church parlor** and agreed to do this. Also, the **Anna group will resume meeting on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm in the church parlor**, and the **Ruth group will resume meeting the second Tuesday of the month at a place and time to be announced.** (Contact Marilyn Bohlendar for Ruth Group details.) The **Heart Sisters are meeting at a restaurant on the last Saturday of the month.** Plans to have Easter chocolate bunnies available for children on Easter Sunday are in progress. The budget for 2021 was reviewed.

Submitted by Kathy Cooper, CWF/ODW President

The Comic Corner by Joe Bailey



"... and that concludes our pre-recorded online worship service for today.
Don't forget, we will soon resume in-person worship services!"

Happy Birthday!



4/1 Lorre Reiner
 4/15 Jimi Denning
 4/16 Sherri Denning
 4/18 Cindy Sellers
 4/23 Cindy Davis
 4/25 Kerrie Oats
 4/25 Hilde Wells

Happy Anniversary!



4/4 Fred and Connie Phillips
 4/6 Bill and Gaila Kindt
 4/17 Bill and Barbee Barker

(If you have a birthday or anniversary that we have accidentally left off our lists in the newsletter, please contact the church office and let us know.)



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 and Elizabeth Calhoun-Dean

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We're Back!

In-Person Easter Service

Sunday, April 4th, 10:30 am



First Christian Church
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