

THE LAWTON CHRISTIAN

The official newsletter of the First Christian Church of Lawton



IN THIS ISSUE:

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

CHAT LIVE WITH PAUL AND
OTHERS AT 10 AM SUNDAYS

REMINDER - ONLINE GIVING
IS AVAILABLE

WORSHIP THIS MONTH

AUGUST WORSHIP SCHEDULE

AGAPE MINISTRY

JOYS TO SHARE & PRAYER
REQUESTS

AUGUST CALENDAR

HEALTH TIP FOR AUGUST 2020
FROM KATHY COOPER, RN

HEALTHY CONGREGATION NEWS
(INCLUDING HEALTHY RECIPE)

A NOTE FROM LARISSA COON

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

CHURCH STAFF
& CONTACT INFORMATION

From the Pastor's Pen

by Rev. Paul Appleby

New This Month

In the church calendar, summer falls in a period known as "Ordinary Time". It is called "Ordinary Time" even though it is anything but ordinary. It is supposed to be a time that we, as believers, celebrate the Holy Spirit at work in our midst calling us to grow in our knowledge and appreciation of God, others, and ourselves. To celebrate this, we are going to be presenting some new features in our online ministry this month. To start, our elders will be hosting a segment called, "The Monday Morning Minute." These will be a series of approximately one-minute videos made available every Monday morning in August through our Facebook page, YouTube channel, and by email. In them, our elders will share their greetings and inspirational thoughts in order to help us start our weeks off on the right foot.

Speaking of starting our weeks off on the right foot, in addition to "The Monday Morning Minute", our elders

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will also be working on short (five-ish minute long) devotionals and prayers for our church leadership (elders, deacons, etc...) that will be sent out via email, so be on the lookout for those as we seek to grow together in Christ despite social isolation.

For my part, I will continue to lead our Sunday morning services (more on that later), and this month we will be concluding our Wednesday Bible Study on the seven signs Jesus performs in John 1-12. We will be moving on to a little bit about the history and beliefs of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) next, so if you are interested in learning about our shared spiritual heritage, I invite you to join us! As always, if you are in need of prayer, pastoral counsel, have some new ideas for ministry, or just want to talk - feel free to reach out to me! You can reach me by text, email at pastor@fcclawton.org, or by phone (my extension at the church goes through to my cell). I am looking forward to another exciting month in ministry with you!

God Bless,

Rev. Paul Appleby

Pastor of First Christian Church of Lawton



Chat Live With Paul & Others at 10 am Sundays

While you can, of course, watch our videos on YouTube anytime, did you know that if you watch our Sunday Morning Service as it premieres at 10:00 AM you can chat with Pastor Paul and other church members online? That's the beauty of YouTube Premiers.

If you watch from a mobile device, the service will appear at the top of your screen with the live chat info displayed below.

If you watch from a laptop or PC, your chat is enabled on the left side of the screen. If you view in fullscreen mode, the chat feature will appear on the screen itself, once you have contributed to the chat, anytime someone comments.

So, if you have questions about the sermon, comments, or just want to "pass notes" to your friends in church, this is one other way we can stay in touch with one another!

Reminder: Online Giving is Available

Just a reminder that online and recurring giving is available. Please call Patty Neuwirth at 580-595-0201 and she will help you get set up with this.

Worship This Month

August Worship Schedule

by Rev. Paul Appleby

This month, as we continue to weather COVID-19, we will continue with our monthly meetings via “virtual church”. I am very excited to be working in collaboration with our music minister David Anderson to bring you an exciting new five-week series titled “Games God Plays.”

Play is a powerful and important force in our world. It looses creativity, and it enables us to seek out fresh and exciting solutions to seemingly impossible problems. When we lose the ability to laugh, joke, or play - even when facing the most daunting and serious of problems, we close ourselves off to new possibilities and we run the risk of losing perspective. If play is valuable and important, even necessary to we humans who are made in God’s image, it should come as no surprise that our creator is playful too!

Randomness, play, discovery, and creativity are even baked into the fabric of our universe. While it is true that Albert Einstein once argued that, “God does not play dice,” more recent discoveries in the field of quantum physics has led some of our sharpest minds (like Dr. Stephen Hawking) to conclude, “Not only does God play dice... he sometimes throws them where they cannot be seen.” So come and join us as we engage in the serious, surprising, and sometimes hilarious world of the “Games God Plays”

August 2- “God Cheats”

Scriptures: Genesis 32:22-31; Matthew 14:13-21

August 9- “God Breaks the Physics Engine”

Scripture: Matthew 14:22-30

August 16- “God Gets Outflanked”

Scripture: Matthew 15:21-28

August 23- “Advanced Tactics - Get Loot, Level Up, Get a New Mission”

Scriptures: Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20

August 30- “The Name Game”

Scriptures: Exodus 3:1-15; Matthew 16:21-28

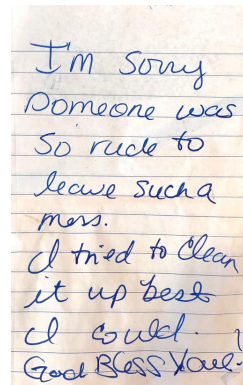




Agape Ministry

We continue to ask for contributions to the Outdoor Pantry Box (on the west side of our building). You may just set your contributions on the shelves of the box. The food goes very quickly, often the same day it is stocked. The Pantry Box is incredibly successful at reaching those in need. Items needed include **ready-to-eat foods** such as the following:

- sandwiches
- fruits
- fresh vegetables
- bread
- cheese and crackers
- peanut butter
- cereal
- canned meats with easy open tops
- bottled water



One of our patrons recently left this kind note in our pantry box after someone had left a mess.

Each Wednesday evening from 5:30 to 6:30 pm (please note time change), we serve to-go meals outside the south side of the building. Our plan is to continue doing this until such time as folks are allowed to return to a semi-normal life again. **Year-to-date 3,545 meals have been served** (371 meals in June and 192 meals so far in July).

Upcoming meals for August are as follows:

August 5 - Chicken Strips

August 12 - Pork Loin

August 19 - Beef Sandwiches

August 26 - Hot Dogs

If you are interested in helping out, please contact either the church office or Konrad Delger, Facilities Manager.



Joys to Share!

The power of prayer is great! Thank you for all your prayers in the following joyous situations:

- **Lori Anderson's** pathology report showed no sign of cancer in the bladder!
- **Ron and Beverly Honeycutt** are feeling well enough to come off the prayer list!
- Hilde Bilvais' son's friend **Eric**, who has COVID-19 feels 70% better!
- **Gaila and Bill Kindt** are both feeling much better, finally, and Bill has gained seven pounds!
- **Joe Bailey's** knee repair went well!
- **Nancy Davis** was hospitalized for heart issues, but she is now home and feeling much better!
- **Tom and Jane Springli's daughter-in-law** is covid-free and back at work!
- **Connie Phillips** is doing well now following her recent surgery!
- Amber Delger's friend **Lisa Gibson** has completed her chemo, and she is cancer free!
- Kathy and Jay Cooper's daughter **Jana** is graduating with her ADN!

Those Who Have Lost Loved Ones

- The **family of Dale Hill**. His family members include wife Marcella, daughters Drema and Holli, and sons Nathan and Darrin Hill.
- **Family and friends of Bill Funk** (Gaila Kindt's good friend)
- **Family and friends of Raymond** (Gaila Kindt's friend)

- **Sage Appleby's family**, and especially her **Uncle Reed**, in the wake of her Aunt Donna's sudden passing.
- **Mary Denning's extended family** following the death of her cousin Charles.
- **Family of the former foster mother** of Tacia. (Tacia is a friend of Joe Bailey's son Alex.)

Those With Health Concerns

- **Danyle Smith**
- **Kevin** (Mary Denning's brother-in-law)
- **Don Funk** (Gaila Kindt's friend)
- **Dick Tannery** (angiogram on Aug. 7th)
- **Erika Whittenberg**
- **Maria Stebbins** (Denise Smith's friend)
- **Mary Denning**
- **Mary Ann** (Gaila Kindt's friend)
- **Mel Cassady**
- **Joe Bailey**
- **Shelly Unsicker Durham** (Sheila Fountain's friend)
- **Pat Dryburgh** (Helen Venniro's friend)
- **Barbee and Bill Barker**
- **Bridget** (The Bowman's daughter)
- **Virginia Lucas**
- **Darlene Miller**
- **Mary Brinkman** (Pat Cassady's sister)
- **Shirley Gamil** (Pat Cassady's cousin)
- **Marge Lutz and her daughters**
- **Sherri Denning**
- **Phyllis and Don Henke**



Please pray for our city, troops, country, leaders, and the world during this difficult time.



August 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 10:00am Paul Presents Today's Message On FCC YouTube Channel	3	4	5 5:30 pm To-go Sack Meal 6pm Paul Presents Today's Bible Study On FCC YouTube Channel	6 5:30pm Elder's Meeting	7	8
9 10:00am Paul Presents Today's Message On FCC YouTube Channel	10	11	12 5:30 pm To-go Sack Meal 6pm Paul Presents Today's Bible Study On FCC YouTube Channel	13	14	15
16 10:00am Paul Presents Today's Message On FCC YouTube Channel	17	18	19 5:30 pm To-go Sack Meal 6pm Paul Presents Today's Bible Study On FCC YouTube Channel	20 6:30pm Board Meeting	21	22
23 10:00am Paul Presents Today's Message On FCC YouTube Channel	24	25	26 5:30 pm To-go Sack Meal 6pm Paul Presents Today's Bible Study On FCC YouTube Channel	27	28	29
30 10:00am Paul Presents Today's Message On FCC YouTube Channel	31					



Health Tip for August 2020 From Kathy Cooper, RN

Mental health is an important part of our overall health and well being. Mental health includes our psychological, emotional and social well being. During this time of Social Distancing we may find we feel isolated, lonely and missing the way "things were" before the pandemic. The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic is stressful for people. Fear and anxiety about a new disease and what could happen may be overwhelming and cause strong emotions in adults and children. This may increase stress and anxiety. However, these precautionary actions are necessary to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Coping with stress in a healthy way will make you, the people you care about, and your community stronger.

Stress during an infectious disease outbreak can sometimes cause the following:

- Fear and worry about your own health and the health of your loved ones, your financial situation or job, or loss of support services you rely on.
- Changes in sleep or eating patterns.
- Difficulty sleeping or concentrating.
- Worsening of chronic health problems.
- Worsening of mental health conditions.
- Increased use of tobacco and/or alcohol and other substances.



Everyone reacts differently to stressful situations and how you respond to stress during the COVID-19 pandemic can depend on your background, your social support from family or friends, your financial situation, your health and emotional background, the community you live in, and many other factors. The changes that can happen because of the COVID-19 pandemic leave people who do not have access to information in their primary language at a particular disadvantage.

Taking care of your friends and your family can be a stress reliever, but it should be balanced with care for yourself. Helping others cope with their stress, such as providing social support, can also make your community stronger. During times of increased social distancing, people can still maintain social connections and care for their mental health. Phone calls or video chats can help you and your loved ones feel socially connected, less lonely, or isolated. Let's all take care of each other until we can be together once more in our beautiful church. I miss church fellowship!

Healthy Congregation News

We are thinking about trying to have a fall garden at the church using raised beds. If you are interested in helping with this ministry please let me know. I have researched plans on Pinterest for raised beds using pallets, and I believe we can do this working together. If you have other ideas which may be available to us please contact me, Kathy Cooper, at 405-657-4210.

Recipe for August: Tomato Tart



One package of puff pastry rolled out with edges trimmed and pastry docked. Spread with Dijon Mustard on the pastry. Place sliced tomatoes in rows on the pastry. Salt and pepper and drizzle olive oil on the tomatoes. Bake 400 degree oven until tomatoes roasted and pastry is brown 15-20 minutes. Enjoy!

Submitted by Kathy Cooper

A Note from Larissa Coon

Dear Church Family,

It is with mixed feelings that I write to you! I am sorry to say that I will not continue being a member of the FCC of Lawton, because I am moving to Arizona.

I am excited to be starting a new chapter and adventure as the Chief of Occupational Therapy with the Phoenix VA.

Amanda is doing great and will graduate in December from Wichita State University with a BA in Theater and English. At this time due to the covid she has spent the time in Colorado with my parents. This has been a very bonding experience for them all.

Meanwhile, Trent, graduated from Goodland High School in Goodland, Kansas, this past June and has only one more year for an Associates degree in Engineering from Northwest Tech. He is planning on continuing his studies in the Fall of 2021 at Kansas State University in Agricultural/ Mechanical Engineering.

We think of you, All, every day and wish you the best! Thank you, Everyone, for having made Oklahoma a home for us for the past 7 years.

Shalom! Larissa Coon



Happy Anniversary!

8/6 Lori Anderson
8/7 Donna Glandon
8/8 David Titus
8/9 Denise Smith
8/10 Joe Bailey
8/11 Evan Aubrey
8/12 Melissa Lutz
8/13 Brian Birdwell
8/15 Kevin Brown
8/15 Patty Hutton
8/19 Ryan Lund
8/24 John Adair
8/24 Sage Appleby
8/24 Roger Clark
8/26 Bill Barker
8/29 Pam Shepherd
8/30 Jack Bryan

8/3 Ron and Pam Shepherd
8/19 Jack and Judy Bryan
8/22 Ralph and Nancy Davis
8/25 David and JoJo Aubrey



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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