



# First Press

Weekly Newsletter

June 7, 2026

First Presbyterian Church

## Our Pastor

Rev. Dr. Helen Hutchison

Email: [helen@firstpreslawrence.org](mailto:helen@firstpreslawrence.org)

Helen will be in the office Monday through Thursday.

## Our Mission

We are a community of Christ's disciples who celebrate God's inclusive love by ministering to one another and the world.

## Church Office Hours

9 am to 3 pm Monday through Friday.

## Welcome!

We encourage everyone to come as you are, be who you are, and be in community with us! Whether you are joining us virtually or in-person, as a long-time member or a first-time guest, we are happy to have you with us anytime! If you are new to First Presbyterian Church, please let us know you are here by signing the **Friendship Pad**: If you are worshipping with us online either live or recorded please **email us at [linda@firstpreslawrence.org](mailto:linda@firstpreslawrence.org)** letting us know you joined us in worship. We look forward to getting to know you. If you are interested in membership at FPC please talk with Pastor Helen.

**Cards of Encouragement**: Blue cards found in the pew rack ~ please put in offering plate and we will send them out in the mail.

## Children Sunday School

- **Sunday School Classes for Children**

- Kick-off for fall classes will be on August 9<sup>th</sup> so mark your calendars so you don't miss out!

## Adult and Youth Sunday School

- **Adult Classes will resume on August 16<sup>th</sup>**. In the meantime, check out the options available this summer during the week! See notes below.

## Youth Activities

- **For our next project** we will be looking for donations of single serving snacks to share with the guests of the Homeless Resource Center AND new or gently used adult sized socks for the Lawrence Community Shelter. Questions? Call Kelly Grube at 785-979-2713. We are expanding our donation requests to include gently used card and board games for more options to share with our LINK guests.

**Pastor Helen's Monday Class** is meeting on Mondays at 2 pm in the Fireside Room. We are currently studying the history of religion in the US. This is a class Helen taught at Northeastern Oklahoma A & M college. We will survey the history of religion in America and its impact on social reform, politics and intellectual life. It will offer an opportunity to study the religions of the world and the influence faith and religion have exercised in American history. Everyone is welcome!

## Summer Education Opportunity: Historical Perspectives on Indigenous Boarding Schools

The Matthew 25 cohort has been looking over the surveys many of you submitted several months ago asking about your knowledge and interaction of Haskell Indian Nations University and your wishes to be allies to the Indigenous people in our community. We have come up with several plans, beginning with the request that we need to better educate ourselves about indigenous history and treatment by governmental policies. We are starting with a book study using the book Education for Extinction: American Indians and the Boarding School Experience, 1875–1928 May 29, 2020 by David Wallace Adams (Author) **Our first meeting will be June 10 at 3 in the library.** We have some shorter readings that are in a handout located in the narthex. We will start with the shorter readings on June 10<sup>th</sup>. Books have been ordered including some extras if you need one. All are welcome.



**Our Summer Choir will begin next Sunday, June 14.** Everyone – youth and adults are welcome to come to the rehearsal beginning at 9:30 in the Sanctuary to learn the music for the morning and then sing together during worship. This is perfect for the singers out there who have conflicts with a weekly rehearsal time or who just want to share their voices for the summer. Questions to Adrian Hartsough on Sunday morning or to [Adrian@firstpreslawrence.org](mailto:Adrian@firstpreslawrence.org).

**Summer Sermon Series** We are going to be spending the summer with the Psalter. The Psalms will guide our worship this summer as we look to the ways the psalms speak about our experiences and emotions.

**We are looking for volunteers** to help on a Sunday morning from time to time as **ushers and greeters**. Plan to arrive a bit early, help folks who might be unfamiliar with our building find their way around, greet everyone, hand out bulletins, help find nametags, assist with seating, take a “head count” for the office staff, and meet some wonderful folks! If you can help please **sign up on the sheets in the Narthex**. Thank you.



**We need one or two people to join our Sound Board team!** Our current people are fabulous, but sometimes they need a day off or they want to participate in worship and the life of the church in other ways. If we have several folks who can run the board, then we can spread out the responsibility. Let's not let our online friends down – we have about 40 who are regular attenders online – and step up to learn something new! Please talk to the folks at the board about getting some

training. It takes all of us to make this happen! Thank you so much!



**Just Food is hosting a Gala** to celebrate the work that has been done to make sure everyone in Douglas County has nutritious food as well as raising critical funds to sustain and expand this work. If you agree that providing nutritious food for everyone – especially those who are unable to afford it – consider attending “**A Night in the Caribbean**” on June 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm at the Oread Hotel. Tickets are available at [www.justfoodks.org](http://www.justfoodks.org) or call 785-856-7030.

**Today! June 7 at 11:30 am is our Annual FPC Picnic!** Join us after worship in the Fellowship Hall for a fried chicken dinner! The Fellowship Committee is hosting and hopes you will join us today!

**Have you paid your per capita yet?** One of the features of the PCUSA is the per capita (Latin for "per head") contribution. Currently at \$42, it's an annual amount that helps fund the General Assembly office in Louisville, the Synod of Mid-America in Kansas City, and the Presbytery of Northern Kansas in Salina. While the church's budget contains a line item to pay each member's per capita, when individuals make a separate donation, it frees up money for other purposes such as the Deacon's fund, mission donations or improvements to the church's building. Please consider paying yours today!

**The Presbyterian Peace Fellowship is honoring Presbyterians for Earth Care at the 2026 General Assembly.** The Moderator for PPF stated, "Earth care and fossil fuel divestment are acts of peacemaking for the future." PPF also sees peacemaking merit in the overture Regenerative Farming, a concern the EcoTeam of FPC included in this year's Earth Care Forum series.

The General Assembly created opportunities for congregations to become Earth Care certified in 1995. First Presbyterian was first certified in 2010. Designated congregations were recognized as a way to support people of faith working toward "environmental wholeness with social justice". ( It is important to note that being certified is not a political statement. It is an opportunity to respond to a theological understanding of what it means to be a Christian.) Approximately 280 congregations are currently certified.

**Gardening Tips from the K-State Horticulture Newsletter: Watering your Garden:**

One of the easiest ways, especially if you're just getting started with your garden, is to water by hand. You will want to make sure that you can get close to your plants and get the water down near the base of the plants where the roots are. What you need to avoid is spraying your water over the top of the plants. You won't get as much water to the soil this way, and you may not be watering thoroughly. And, you'll also be getting the leaves of the plants wet, which can cause disease problems – especially in the heat of summer.

Drip irrigation is easier than hand watering because you can turn the system on and then go off and do something else for a couple of hours while the system waters your plants. Another benefit is that with the drip line, the water gets to the roots on the plants, and you won't waste water by spraying parts of the plants that don't need water, or parts of your garden that don't have any plants in them currently.



**Our garden is growing!** Take a walk around to the southeast corner of the building and see the Butterfly Garden as it grows. Thanks to the EcoTeam for keeping this a growing space and a welcome place for butterflies!



**Congratulations to Bev and Loren Dolezal!** Bev and Loren Dolezal received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Lawrence Federated Music Club. This was announced at the State Conference for the Kansas Federated Music Clubs the first weekend in May. Bev and Loren raised three children, two of whom became professional musicians.

Congratulations on a much-deserved recognition. Bev and Loren rang in our church bell choir (the Westminster Ringers). Loren sang in the FPC choir. Bev taught in our church preschool and played piano for them. In the New Horizons Band, Bev played saxophone and Loren plays percussion.



Many thanks to our Family Promise 5K team!



Bingo is back for Father's Day on Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup>. The prize cabinet is restocked and ready for some winners! Potluck lunch and snacks will be served.

We will be serving pasta at LINK on June 27<sup>th</sup>. Sign up in the Narthex! Meet at LINK at First Christian Church, 10<sup>th</sup> and Kentucky at 11:30 to help. Youth 13 and older can help without an adult. We will be serving pasta this time.

**Fathers Day**  
**BINGO**  
**AND POTLUCK**

JOIN THE FPC YOUTH SUNDAY, JUNE 21<sup>ST</sup>, IN FELLOWSHIP HALL FOLLOWING CHURCH AT 11:30

BRING YOUR FAVORITE GAME DAY SNACK TO SHARE!

**Pasta at LINK**

SATURDAY, JUNE 27  
11:30 AM-2:30 PM

**IF VOLUNTEERING:**

- Please arrive by 11:30 AM to help set up. The meal will be served at 1:00 PM.

**IF PROVIDING FOOD:**

- Bring all items to church kitchen on Friday, June 26 between 9:00 AM-3:00 PM OR bring directly to LINK on June 27 by 11:30 AM.