



First Press

Weekly Newsletter

July 19, 2026

First Presbyterian Church

Our Pastor

Rev. Dr. Helen Hutchison

Email: 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** 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.

*Ice Cream
Social and
Bingo!*

Save the date for
our annual
Ice Cream Social
on Sunday, July 19th
at 11:30 pm



Join us after worship for our Annual Ice Cream Social

We will have Ice Cream and snacks to share.

Our Youth will host some BINGO and the prize closet has been stocked!

Come share in the fun and fellowship.

Everyone is welcome at FPC!

Children Sunday School

- **Sunday School Classes for Children**

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

Adult and Youth Sunday School

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



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.

Pastor Helen's Monday Class is taking a break while Pastor Helen is on vacation. We will resume our meetings on Monday, August 3rd. at 2 pm in the Fireside Room.

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) The class will discuss Part 3, Chapters 7 and 8 on Wednesday, July 22 at 3:00 pm.

The Youth are collecting items that help others. You can help too!

Homeless Resource Center



Single Serve Snacks
These will be given to guests at the Center.

Lawrence Community Shelter



New or gently used socks!

Ushers



Needed!



& Greeters

Sign up at the table in the Narthex!

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.

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.

The Deacon Love Fund is busy helping folks stay in their homes, keep their utilities on, and other necessities of daily life. This month we helped one person register their car so they could get to work legally. In June your gifts helped 18 individuals and families with expenses they could not meet. The requests are coming faster and we anticipate that to keep increasing as we get closer to the start of school and families having to choose what to spend limited resources on each week. We only help a person or family once a year, so these are not repeating needs for the same people. Thank you for your gifts and support of the Love Fund!

School Supplies! We are helping our elementary schools with school supplies! The list is a little shorter this year. We will be collecting items from now until August 2nd. Bring your donations to the church anytime we are open (9 to 3 Monday through Friday) or on Sunday. Here is the list:

Markers – box of 8 washable, bold colors

Pencils - #2 Ticondra

Scissors

Spiral Notebooks – wide rule

Back pack



Show Your Colors on Social Justice Sunday August 2



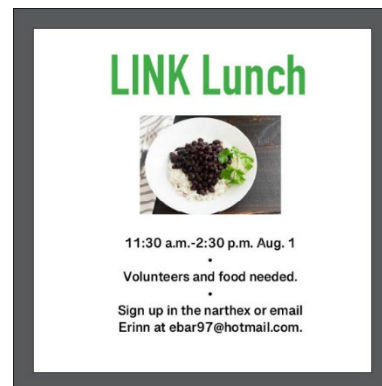
Many members of our congregation put time, money and effort into supporting causes that focus on social justice issues in our community. On Sunday August 2, the Matthew 25 Committee invites you to “show your colors” by wearing your brand new blue FPC shirt or one from an organization or cause you support like Family Promise, Lawrence Pride, League of Women Voters, gun control. Together we can fill the sanctuary with a rainbow of colors as we gather for worship and communion.

Help us serve our neighbors at LINK on Aug. 1

FPC will be serving black beans and rice, pulled pork and tossed salad. Volunteers are needed between 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. to cook, serve and clean up. Sign up in the Narthex or email Erinn Barcomb-Peterson (ebar97@hotmail.com) with as many hours as you're able. Youth 13 and older can help without an adult.

LINK is located at First Christian Church, 10th and Kentucky streets.

FPC also needs donations of desserts, fresh fruit and other pantry items for the meal. Look for the sign-up sheet in the narthex or email Erinn for details.



Updates are happening this summer at FPC!

Please excuse our mess!

The Presbyterian Women are updating the women's restroom at the south end of the building. This week they removed the stall walls. This is in preparation for new ones as well as a new floor which will come in next week. In the meantime, the restroom isn't really usable at this time.

The men's room is also getting into the act and is also not really usable this week.

Thank you for your patience as we make it better for everyone!

There are other restrooms available at the north end of the building or in the basement.

Are You Prepared to Vote?

The August 4th primary includes an amendment that changes the selection of Supreme Court justices from the 70-year-old merit-based vetting system to an open general election. This amendment if passed, will fundamentally change the Supreme Court in Kansas. Beginning this Sunday, visit the Matthew 25 table to prepare to yourself to participate in this very important election. We will have information about the Amendment, different perspectives on how it could affect issues like abortion rights and public-school funding; how to register to vote, the three ways to vote in Kansas, and important election deadlines.

Finance Committee reminders:

- **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!
- **Summer Giving** – Summertime can get busy and routines interrupted, but the costs to run the church just keep coming! If you can we would appreciate everyone keeping up with their pledges over the summer and if you are able additional gifts are especially appreciated during this time of year.



Rummage Sale – The Presbyterian Women are getting ready for all of your donations to our Rummage Sale this year! The doors to south fellowship hall will open for donations on Monday, August 3rd. Please use the South Fellowship Hall only as we are a polling place for the Primary Election on Tuesday on the North side of the Hall. We accept clothing, household items, holiday décor, home décor, books, music and more! We cannot accept electronics, large furniture or large appliances. The sale will be held on Friday and Saturday, August 7 and 8. Mark your calendar and start cleaning out now!

From the Garden – It doesn't feel like summer unless I am growing tomatoes! I no longer eat tomatoes, but I still plant them in late spring, and they produce all summer. I bring them to church to add to the Community Garden donation to Just Food. This year I added sage, summer savory, basil, tarragon, and hopefully some squash. The Sunday School class planted radishes this spring, and they were harvested a couple weeks ago. The FPC Community Garden is growing Swiss chard, rosemary, Greek basil, flat leaf parsley and crinkle parsley, cucumbers and chives. Do you have garden produce you would like to donate to Just Food? Bring it to church on Sunday morning, or during the week and leave it in the kitchen refrigerator (just let us know!). The Just Food crew will deliver the produce. Questions? Call Margie Dyck at 913-220-3363.

Roots of the Land, Food of the People

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 culture. To meet this request we have invited Chef Melissa Garret of Wadulisi's Contemporary Indigenous Foods to provide us with an authentic traditional meal on **Sunday, September 20 after worship**. (Save the date!)

Here is some information from her website about her business – "Wadulisi's Contemporary Indigenous Foods is committed to helping individuals reconnect with their cultural roots through enriching culinary experiences. By revitalizing indigenous foodways and advocating for food sovereignty, Wadulisi enhances cultural visibility and appreciation within diverse communities. This mission comes to life through a range of initiatives, including private chef events, cultural experiences, culinary consulting services, and thoughtful recipe development. By artfully merging modern technology with traditional food practices, Wadulisi preserves culture one plate at a time, inviting individuals to celebrate and honor the vibrant tapestry of indigenous culinary traditions. We are also excited to introduce new soaps, seasoning blends, custom masa mixes, candles, and dried goods."