



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Helen Hutchison, Pastor

Paul Laird, liturgist

August 30, 2026

Andrew Morris, organ

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Friendship Pads: Please help us maintain good communication with all our members and guests by completing the Friendship Register as it is passed from the end of each pew. Please let us know the best way to communicate with you. Be sure to greet folks new to you at the end of worship!

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

Congregational Introit

We Are Standing on Holy Ground
HOLY GROUND

Glory to God #406

Call To Worship

One: In the midst of meaninglessness,

All: You call us to meaning, O God.

One: In the midst of divisiveness,

All: You call us to community through Christ.

One: Out of our brokenness,

All: You call us to wholeness and new life in the Spirit.

One: In praise and thanksgiving, let us worship God.

* Hymn of Praise

I Sing the Mighty Power of God
ELLACOMBE

Glory to God #32

* Call To Confession

Paul Laird, liturgist

One: It is in our confession where we realize our desire for God and our hope for God's mercy. It is in admitting the truth of our lives that we take the first step toward wholeness and healing. So let us make our confession:

* Prayer of Confession

Paul Laird, liturgist

Lord God, servanthood is not easy for us. We are attracted to the illusions of power and rank. We are seduced by wealth and privilege. We are accustomed to success and surrounded by our accomplishments. The towel and the basin of servanthood, the stooping of ministry, the listening, gentleness and openness of the serving spirit are so alien to much of our society and to us. Teach us to love, teach us to serve, teach us gentle strength and warm authority. Teach us how to bind up the brokenness. Teach us to be stewards of our powers, custodians of our communities. Teach us the sheer exploding joy of service.

* Silent Prayers of Confession

* Pouring the Water

* Words of Forgiveness

Paul Laird, liturgist

One: On mountaintops and in valleys, in our homes and in our hearts, God knows us better than we know ourselves, and God forgives us when we cannot forgive ourselves. By God's mercy, we are forgiven; by God's mercy, we are made whole; by God's mercy, we are equipped to serve others. Thanks be to God. Amen.

* Passing the Peace

Paul Laird, liturgist

One: Knowing the grace and mercy of the Lord, we share it with one another.
The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

(Please greet one another and exchange signs of peace and reconciliation.)

- * **Hymn** *Glory Be to the Father* **GLORIA PATRI**
*Glory be to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost;
 As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.
 As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.
 Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.*
- Prayer of Illumination** Paul Laird, liturgist
 Holy One, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Spirit, that, as the scriptures are read
 and your word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. **Amen.**
- Gospel Reading** Matthew 23:1-12 Paul Laird, liturgist
- Sermon** "God Humbles" Rev. Dr. Helen Hutchison
- Hebrew Bible Reading** Judges 16:4-22
- Hymn** *Just a Closer Walk with Thee* **Glory to God #835**
 CLOSER WALK
- Prayer of the People and the Lord's Prayer** from the Maori Tradition
 Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain bearer, Life-giver,
 Source of all that is and that shall be,
 Father and Mother of us all,
 Loving God, in whom is heaven:
 The hallowing of your name echo through the universe;
 The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world;
 Your heavenly will be done by all created beings;
 Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
 sustain our hope and come on earth.
 With the bread we need for today, feed us.
 In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
 In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
 From trial too great to endure, spare us.
 From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
 For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. **Amen.**
- The Offering** Andrew Morris, organist
- * **Doxology** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* **Glory to God #606**
*Praise God from whom all blessings flow
 Praise God all creatures here below
 Praise God above ye heav'nly host
 Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost*
- * **Prayer of Dedication**
- * **Affirmation of Faith**
 We are not alone; we live in God's world. We believe in God who has created and is creating; who
 has come to us in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new; who works in us and
 others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church, to celebrate God's presence; to
 live with respect in creation; to love and serve others; to seek justice and resist evil; to proclaim
 Jesus' message of hope, inclusion and grace. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.
 We are not alone. Thanks be to God.
- * **Closing Hymn** *May the God of Hope Go with Us (3 times)* **Glory to God #765**
 ARGENTINA
- * **Charge and Benediction**

* Stand as you are able – in spirit or in body

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; 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, please talk to Pastor Helen.

Prayer List

Cares, Concerns and Celebrations

- We celebrate with **Dorcas Djifa Gavi** for completing all the steps required to become a naturalized citizen of the United States of America. She just awaits the formal ceremony. Congratulations!
- **Ann McMillian**, mother of **Annette Camlin**, died on Wednesday, August 19, 2026, at Hospice House in Omaha, NE. Prayers for her family for their loss.
- **Prayers for Marin and Pearl Hoover and their family** as they mourn the death of their grandmother Hoover on August 22, 2026
- **Kelly Grube** is receiving a round of chemotherapy and is grateful for our prayer support.
- **Kristi McAlister** continues to receive cancer treatments. Kristi and Pat McAlister (her mother) are grateful for our continued prayers and support.
- **Betty Thomas**, **Joy Laird's mother**, is receiving hospice care at Presbyterian Manor. Prayers please.
- **Diana Schoneweis' great nephew, Luke (12)**, completed chemotherapy Prayers for healing.
- **George Crump** asks for our prayers as he navigates life issues.
- **Sammie Locke** is receiving care at Bridge Haven where she lives.
- **Allison Clunn-McPlin and family**, friends of Dave and Lois Dutcher. Allison has ALS and has entered a clinical trial which has proven helpful to her. They are encouraged. Thank you for your prayer support.
- **Susan and Pat** - dealing with health concerns.
- **Nancy Brink**, a friend of Lois and Dave Dutcher, asks for prayers as she copes with brain and lung cancer.

Sunday Helpers

Ushers: Chris Heider and Larry Schlosser

Greeters: Eva Alley and Robert Mugridge

South Door Greeter: Judy Wilson

Offering: Paul Laird and Erinn Barcomb-Peterson

Friendship Pad Collector: Petra Peterson

Bag Brigade Volunteer: Marilyn Heikes

Birthdays in the Congregation

August 31

Karen Crump

Maia Bradley

September 1

Hazel Dreweis

September 2

Wally Hill

September 3

Jerry Chandler

Christian Walter

Deacon Family Groups - 2026

A-B	Dorothy Devlin	Lf-Me	Deborah Norwood
C-Di	Lois Dutcher	Mf-N	Becky May
Dj-F	Sandy Groene	O-R	Diana Schoneweis
G-Ha	Melinda Fischer	S-Si	Charles Tuttle
Hb-J	Lucille Eggenberger	Sj-To	Mary Parkinson
K-Le	Linda Longino	Tj-Z	Nikki Barcomb

Calendar

August 30

9:15 am	Children's Sunday School
9:15 am	Adult and Youth Sunday School
10:30 am	Worship
3:00 pm	Back to School Bowling

August 31

9:00 am	First 5 Years Classes
1:15 pm	FPC Staff Meeting
2:00 pm	Pastor Helen's Class
6:00 pm	Westminster Ringers Rehearsal

September 1

9:00 am	First 5 Years Classes
5:30 pm	Girl Scout Parent Info Meeting

September 2

9:00 am	First 5 Years Classes
10:00 am	Insurance Meeting - Property
6:00 pm	Boy Scout Troop 59 Meeting
7:00 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal

September 3

9:00 am	First 5 Years Classes
6:00 pm	Property Committee Meeting

September 4

9:00 am	First 5 Years Classes
10:00 am	Men's Group
3:00 pm	Finance Committee Meeting

September 6

9:15 am	Children's Sunday School
9:15 am	Adult and Youth Sunday School
10:30 am	Worship

Children Sunday School

- **Sunday School Classes for Children**

- Our first theme is Welcome All

Welcome All is the way we are describing the faith practice of hospitality. It is the idea of being intentional and authentic as we offer a genuine welcome to all of God's people - both stranger and friend. When we are intentional about welcoming all, we are affirming the worth of all of God's people. A commitment to opening our hearts, our homes, our churches, and our capacity for friendship and community too, not only those who are like us, but also those who are different from us is at the very heart of the practice of hospitality. Nancy Hodges and Joan Golden will teach for August:

- 8/30 - Welcome.....All? Luke 7:36-50

Adult and Youth Sunday School

- Adult Classes on August 30 - Mark Shiflett will lead a class called *Solar Panels for Beginners*.
- Jim Woelfel's class will resume on September 6 - *Varieties of Unbelief: Thomas Henry Huxley, George Eliot, Bertran Russell, Simone de Beauvoir*. The American philosopher William James entitled his classic study of religion *The Varieties of Religious Experience*. Over the centuries skepticism about and outright rejection of theistic beliefs have also been expressed in a variety of ways of thinking and sensibilities. In this series I will present four modern agnostic and atheistic thinkers and writers whose differences illustrate what I am calling the varieties of unbelief. Unbelief can range from brisk rejection and sharp criticism of Christianity and belief in God, at one end of the spectrum, to a deep sense of the mystery of human existence and a poignantly sympathetic appreciation of faith at the other.

Youth Activities and Opportunities –

- Sunday, August 30 is our annual **Back to School Bowling Night!** Join us and bring a friend to Royal Crest Lanes at 9th and Iowa from 3 to 5 pm. All are welcome to join for a game or two. The church will cover the cost of shoes and one game for each youth. Please have money for snacks and the arcade if needed or desired.

Worship for August and September

We continue a sermon series on *Epic Meltdowns in the Bible and How God Responds*. It may help us in our own meltdown or meltdown arounds us to know that God Forgives, God Waits, God Humbles, God Protects, God Instructs and God Provides Help.

Pastor Helen's Monday Class will continue meeting on Mondays at 2 pm in the Fireside Room. We are studying the History of Religion in the United States. You are welcome to join us.

Handbell Ringers Needed!

The Westminster Ringers Handbell Choir is looking for new ringers for both treble and bass bells, beginning Monday, August 31. Rehearsals are held on Mondays, from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm. The group regularly participates in the 10:30 am worship service on the third Sunday of each month, September through May, with occasional additional services throughout the year.

Westminster Ringers will celebrate 50 years of ringing in 2027! If you would like to be part of this dynamic and fun group of musicians, contact director Carol Fleeger at carolfleeger@yahoo.com or 225-235-9285. We are looking forward to having YOU join us!

Last Chance to Buy Tickets for Roots of the Land, Food of the People



In our ongoing effort to learn about and be allies to the Indigenous people in our community, on September 20 we have planned a worship service that focuses on celebrating the Indigenous connection to Kansas including communion with fry bread and then will continue with lunch in fellowship hall. This meal will be catered by Melissa Garret of Wadulisi's Contemporary Indigenous Foods to provide us with an authentic traditional meal. The lunch includes Melissa sharing stories of the importance of food and tradition in the indigenous community. You must purchase a

ticket for this event. Tickets will be on sale in August. Tickets are limited. Cost is \$20 for one, \$40 for two, and \$50 for a family.