



# First Press

Weekly Newsletter

First Presbyterian Church

December 8, 2024

## 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 create a 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 [firstpreslawrence@gmail.com](mailto:firstpreslawrence@gmail.com)** 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.

## Prayers

### Cares, Concerns, and Celebrations

- We received word that **Dee Link**, former member of FPC, died on November 25 in Corrales, NM.
- **Michael Devlin** who has a multiple myeloma diagnosis and waiting for a treatment plan.
- **John Bell** had hip surgery Dec. 2. Prayers for good healing.
- **Ruthanne Stucky**, mother of **Alisa Stucky**, asks for our prayers of healing and strength as she continues her fight against cancer.
- **Jenny Skridulis Vellon**, a former member of FPC, had breast cancer surgery recently. She will rest for a few weeks before starting radiation. Prayers welcome!
- **Tim Dutcher**, son of **Lois and David Dutcher**, had a kidney transplant. Tim was hospitalized last week while adjusting medicine to support the transplant.

- **Susan and Pat** who have health concerns.
- **Kelly Grube** is receiving chemo and being evaluated by Mayo Clinic.
- **Tanja Rounds** is dealing with a brain tumor. Prayers appreciated.
- **Nancy Brink**, a friend of **Lois and Dave Dutcher**, asks for prayers as she copes with brain and lung cancer diagnosis.
- **Linda Wilson**, **Carol Fleeger's** sister-in-law, is healing following cancer surgery.
- **Allison Clunn-McPlin and family**, friends of **Dave and Lois Dutcher**. Allison was diagnosed with an aggressive form of ALS.
- **Kristi McAlister**, FPC member and daughter of **Pat McAlister**, who is facing some serious health challenges.
- **Prayer for our pastor and church leaders**, for those leading our community, our state, and our nation.
- **Prayers for those** facing surgery or treatments, living with addiction or mental health issues, and for the caregivers supporting them.
- **My heartfelt thanks** to everyone who communicated their sympathy and support following the death of my daughter **Allegra**. Your cards and notes, your spoken words, and your prayers have meant a lot during a very difficult time. **Jim Woelfel**

## Sunday Helpers

**Ushers:** Mark Schoneweis, Larry Schlosser, Mark Shiflett, Larry Maxey

**Greeters:** Diana Schoneweis

**Securing the Offering:** Jeff Southard, Melinda Fischer

**Friendship Pad Collector:** Petra Peterson

**Bag Brigade Volunteer:** Linda Longino

## Deacon Family Groups - 2024

A-Ca	Charles Tuttle	N-Q	Peggy Southard
Ce-Do	Janet Adams	Mc-Mz	Becky May
Dr-F	Diana Schoneweis	R-Si	Linda Longino
G-Ha	Larry Schlosser	Sl-T	Russ Heikes
He-Ko	Mary Warren	U-Z	Allen Macfarlane
Kr-Ma	Lois Dutcher		

## Birthdays in the Congregation

December 10 Wayne Hathaway	December 12 Linda Upstill
December 11 Jim Rumsey	December 15 Mark Oertel

## Calendar

<b>December 8</b>	
9:15 am	Sunday School – Children & Youth
9:15 am	Advent Series with Pastor Helen
10:30 am	Worship
11:30 am	Lunch on Sunday Group
3:00 pm	Lawrence Community Bell Concert
3:00 pm	Youth Holiday Party
<b>December 9</b>	
9:00 am	First 5 Years Classes
1:15 pm	Staff Meeting
2:00 pm	Pastor Helen's Class
3:00 pm	Finance Committee Meeting
6:00 pm	Cub Scout Den - Schwaller
6:00 pm	Westminster Ringers Rehearsal
<b>December 10</b>	
9:00 am	First 5 Years Classes
1:00 pm	Small World Classes
2:30 pm	Matthew 25 Cohort Meeting

6:30 pm	Session Meeting
7:00 pm	Kaw Valley Fiber Guild Meeting
<b>December 11</b>	
9:00 am	First 5 Years Classes
7:00 pm	Boy Scout Troop 59 Meeting
7:00 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
<b>December 12</b>	
9:00 am	First 5 Years Classes
11:00 am	Family Ministry Meeting
1:00 pm	Small World Classes
6:30 pm	PW Leah Circle
<b>December 13</b>	
9:00 am	First 5 Years Classes
10:00 am	Men's Group
7:00 pm	Music Clubhouse Recital
<b>December 14</b>	
8:30 am	Music Clubhouse Recital
10:30 am	PW Winter Gathering
2:00 pm	Girl Scout CPR Training
2:30 pm	Laura Hrivnak Studio Recital
<b>December 15</b>	
9:15 am	Children and Youth Sunday School
9:15 am	Advent Series with Pastor Helen
10:30 am	Worship
11:30 am	Christmas Dinner

## Children and Youth

### Sunday School Classes for Children and Youth

- Pre-K and Kindergarten – Room 9 – Joan Golden and Nancy Hodges
- 1st and 2<sup>nd</sup> Grades – Room 12 – Anne Emert and Nikki Barcomb
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grades – Room 14 - Chris Heider and Linda Longino
- 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grades – Room 11

### Youth Activities

Friends, we have some wonderful plans for 6-12 grades. Please add to your calendars and invite your friends to:

- **December**
  - FUN: youth Christmas Party at the Hoover-Elo house on Sunday December 8th
- **January**
  - MISSION: Youth to the Presbyterian Manor on January 2<sup>nd</sup>.
  - FUN AND MISSION: Winter Youth Retreat – January 19<sup>th</sup> – 11:30am to 6 pm – Watch for more information
- **February**
  - MISSION: The youth group will lead the congregation in service a meal at LINK February 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - MISSION: The Youth will lead in collections of canned food for the Souper Bowl of Caring Feb.9<sup>th</sup>.

### Adult Sunday School Classes

- **Christmas from the Back Side** continues on Sunday at 9:15 am in the Fireside Room. The class will be led by Pastor Helen and will follow a book by J. Ellsworth Kalas, former president and professor of Asbury Theological Seminary. The class will look at the Christmas events to enlarge the familiar borders of the Christmas Story. (No need to purchase the book.)

### Adult Offerings during the week

- **The Men's Group** meets on Friday morning at 10:00 am in the library. Contact Charles Tuttle for more information at [cftuttle@gmail.com](mailto:cftuttle@gmail.com).
- **Pastor Helen's Monday Class** - For December 9th we will be looking at "Blessed Deception" the video by Bill Moyers. The class meets at 2:00 pm in the Fireside Room.

## Presbyterian Women's Christmas Gathering



All women of FPC and their guests are invited to attend our Christmas Gathering on Saturday, December 14, at 10:30 am in Fellowship Hall. Rolls, fruit, coffee, and tea will be provided. The Executive Board and Ruth Circle will host the gathering. Please RSVP by calling the church office, noting your attendance on the Friendship Pad, adding your name to the sign-up sheet on the PW bulletin board or email to [rlindblo@yahoo.com](mailto:rlindblo@yahoo.com). This will help with our planning.

Harpist Erin Wood will be with us to share a Christmas program of music. We will have a Christmas devotional, and a Christmas sing-a-long. Donations will be given to the Haskell Indian Nations University Student Fund. We hope you will come and join the fun!

**Don't be scammed! Reminder:** Pastor Helen and the church staff **will NOT** send emails requesting the purchase of gift cards to help people! This scam has returned and we don't want anyone to make purchases as a result. Your gifts to the Deacon Love fund provide assistance for legitimate needs – no gift cards needed. Thank you!! The Lawrence Police Department is asking you to report receiving one of these emails to their non-emergency line. They are tracking some of these and hope that no one has fallen victim, but if you have – please contact them.

**Organ Recital by Andrew Morris** – December 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm at Bales Organ Recital Hall. Andrew will be playing the works of Olivier Messiaen (December 10<sup>th</sup> is Messiaen's birthday!) and Jean-Louis Florentz (his student). We enjoy Andrew's playing for us on Sunday and this is an opportunity to hear more.



**First Presbyterian Church started what is now the Ecumenical Campus Ministries** in 1905 and remains its biggest supporter to this day. ECM is governed by a board of governors, and FPC needs two people to fill open board positions. If you are willing to serve this campus ministry in what promises to be a very interesting next few years, contact Jeff Southard ([jeff\\_southard@hotmail.com](mailto:jeff_southard@hotmail.com)) or Jim Rumsey ([rumseylaw@sunflower.com](mailto:rumseylaw@sunflower.com)) Thank you!

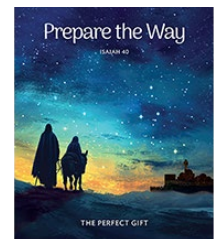
**Ring in the Holidays with the Lawrence Community Hand Bell Choir** – Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm here at FPC. Come and enjoy a concert of seasonal music presented by our local musicians who love what they do, and it shows! The choir is directed by Amy Seifert and Becky Harris.

## News from the Mission Committee Matthew 25

*Because the world would die without it, we go with God's love.*

**Justice Matters** – After the Community Problems Assembly where we heard stories highlighting major issues facing our community, the Justice Matters Network voted to take on youth trauma as its next issue. If you are interested in joining the research process, attend the meeting today - December 8<sup>th</sup> from 2 – 5 pm at First United Methodist Church (downtown location).

**Christmas Joy Offering is the perfect gift!** Through this offering we reflect God's perfect gift to us, with generous support of church leaders among us – past, present, and future – who have pointed us to God. We honor and celebrate leaders like retired pastors, church workers and their families who have faithfully guided and led us, but who now find themselves in critical financial need. This offering also honors emerging leaders like students in schools and colleges equipping communities of color, who develop leadership skills as they pursue their education and prepare to bring their gifts in service to the world. Thank you for giving generously!



**The EcoTeam is supporting the Lawrence Humane Society.** You can help them with contributions of cat and dog food, soft dog treats, peanut butter, cat and dog toys, and blankets and towels. There will be collection boxes in the Narthex. Thank you for your good support of the Humane Society.



**Poinsettias will arrive soon.** If you would like to purchase one to honor or remember someone, please fill out the form on the table in the Narthex. We will have a tribute list on Christmas Eve. We suggest a \$15.00 donation per plant. You can also choose to take one home after worship on Christmas Eve or after Christmas.



**Special Christmas Giving** - You can find order forms and information on the table in the Narthex. This year we are offering options in support of Family Promise, Habitat for Humanity, Lawrence Community Shelter, Warm Hearts, Just Food, Willow Domestic Violence Center, FPC's First 5 Years Scholarship Fund, Heifer International, and Presbyterian Disaster Fund. Thank you for your support.

**Salvation Army Adopt a Family** – Each child and adult lists a “need” and a “wish”, the children are also provided pajamas and socks. You can choose a need or a wish or both for one or more individuals. There is also a request for a family gift.



Please return your unwrapped gifts by Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. Sign up in the Narthex today!



**The FPC Fellowship Committee is hosting our Annual Christmas Dinner** on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>! The menu will include ham, potatoes au gratin, green beans, rolls and beverages. We need you to bring something to share: Please bring according to your last name:

**A to P please bring a side dish.**  
**Q to Z please bring a dessert.**

Please plan to make or purchase enough to serve 8 to 12 people. Please RSVP on the Friendship Pad or call the church office.

**Looking for a way to save on postage with Christmas Cards?** Presbyterian Women are offering their bulletin board for your Christmas Greetings to FPC friends – no charge! Then you can use the savings to support another organization or cause dear to your heart! Post your card anytime across from the Church Office.

**Dinners for 7or 8 are re-grouping!** This is your opportunity to sign up for the 2025 Groups. Choices include dinners in homes, lunch at church, lunch at restaurants, and dinner in restaurants. Sign up for the group or groups you are interested in joining on the sheets in the Narthex. There will be a potluck dinner after worship on January 12<sup>th</sup> in Fellowship Hall. Groups will gather to decide on at least the first meeting. If you are not able to attend the potluck, be sure to get your name on a list and we will include you in the group of your choice. Also, you can contact Jan Roth at [jroth@ku.edu](mailto:jroth@ku.edu) or the church office 785-843-4171 by January 5<sup>th</sup>.



**The Longest Night Worship** – December 21<sup>st</sup> is the Winter Solstice or longest night of the year. Pastor Helen will be leading a worship service at 7:00 pm in the Chapel open to everyone, but especially to those for whom the Christmas season isn't a happy or merry one this year. This is an offering of a safe and quiet space to recognize that our feelings are important and acknowledged, whatever they might be. Please let us know if you would like to come, but need a ride for a nighttime event. We have volunteers ready and willing to provide door to door service. Call the church office by December 19<sup>th</sup> to set up a ride.785-843-4171.

**Looking for a good book to start the new year?** Presbytery of Northern Kansas is offering an online book club beginning January 19. They are reading the book, *Words of Love* by Eugenia Gamble. There will be several groups and times to pick from to suit your schedule. Watch the PNK website for more information. [www.pnks.org](http://www.pnks.org).

**How does a weary world rejoice on Christmas Eve? We make room!**

Pastor Helen will lead us in making room in worship at First Presbyterian Church on Christmas Eve, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary. There will be room for everyone and all of our rejoicing...even in our weary world.

**Finance**

	Budget	Actual
Gifts – November	\$36,000.00	\$27,890.00
Gifts – 2024 – YTD	\$454,906.00	\$469,733.00