



First Press

Weekly Newsletter

April 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.

Children Sunday School

• Sunday School Classes for Children

- Our Children gather for fun and adventure in Room 14 at 9:15 am. Everyone is welcome to be a part of the fun!

Youth Activities

- Since the LINK serving calendar is full until late May, **we will be cooking casseroles to donate to the LINK kitchen** in the meantime! **On Sunday, April 19 during the Sunday School hour (9:00-10:00 AM)**, we will meet in the kitchen to assemble the casseroles. Feel free to drop in during this time! In preparation, we will be collecting ingredient donations for the casserole. Check the list in the Narthex and bring the items to church on April 19!
- **Confirmation Sunday** will be on April 26th during worship. Contact Kelly Grube at 785-979-2713 for more information.

Adult and Youth Sunday School

- **Beginning April 19** – The Church in the 16th Century: Luther, Reformation, and Protestantism. This class will be led by Paul Laird. We will meet in the Fireside Room through May 3rd.

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!

Earth Day at FPC – The EcoTeam invites you to join in celebration of Earth Day. As a certified Earth Care Congregation with PCUSA, FPC provides a variety of ways to engage in care of the earth. Earth Day was first established on April 22, 1970 and since then has mobilized billions of people to lift up their voices to protect our planet. Our Earth Day celebration will include worship focused themes of caring for the earth along with a table in the Narthex that will offer resources:



- Growing your own veggies
- Establishing a pollinator garden
- Utilizing sustainable lawn practices

A few seedling pots containing starter milkweeds will also be available along with mildewed seeds.

Finances in March

	Actual	Budget
Month	\$ 53,410	\$ 41,656
YTD	\$192,463	\$187,124



The PW Spring Gathering & Catered Luncheon is Saturday, April 25, 2026 at 11:30 am to 2:00 pm in the First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall.

Mary Kaye Chandler will give the program "Precious Antiques". PW Executive Board will host the event. Please RSVP to Rachel Lindbloom at 785-865-8987 or rlindblo@yahoo.com, or add your name to the reservation list on the PW Bulletin Board or on the signup sheet in the Narthex or the church Friendship Pad on Sunday, with your name and guests you plan to bring. Don't miss this great program! **All ladies of the church and their friends and guests are invited!**

Many thanks to our Presbyterian Women!

Several members of PW came to the church and made **new tablecloths** for us to use in Fellowship Hall. They are wonderful and will match! Other members have **reupholstered four pews** in the Sanctuary and one in the Narthex. They are wonderful and look so much better. We are so fortunate to have such talented members of FPC who are willing to share those skills with us.

Adult Volunteer Work Trip

The PNKS Mission Ministry Team is excited to announce the location and details for the **Summer 2026 Adult Volunteer Work Trip**. We will again be traveling with members of the Presbytery of Southern Kansas as well as working with Fuller Center for Housing/Disaster ReBuilders (a partner of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance). We only have 12 spots available this year. This year we will travel to Madisonville, KY to help with home rebuilding and repair after F1 tornadoes struck the area in both 2021 and 2025. The trip cost is \$600, with a \$200 scholarship from PNKS. We ask that local churches consider also contributing 1/3 of the cost. More information can be found on the Presbytery of Northern Kansas website at www.pnks.org.

MADISONVILLE KY	ADULT VOLUNTEER WORK TRIP
JUNE 21-26 2026	DISASTER REBUILDERS
LIGHT CONSTRUCTION- REPAIR FROM 2021 & 2025 EF4 TORNADOES	PNKS & PSK

Mission News and Opportunities

Family Promise is inviting us to volunteer with them for **Family Promise of Lawrence's Ikea Build Days**, happening **April 20–24**. Thanks to a generous Ikea grant award, they have the opportunity to fully furnish and set up one of the Family Promise houses, creating a warm, functional, and dignified space for the next family moving in. Primary work will take place April 20–23, with April 24 reserved for finishing touches and a small celebration.

There will be two four-hour shifts to choose from each day:

- **9:00 AM–1:00 PM**
- **1:00–5:00 PM**

All tools and supplies will be provided — volunteers do **not** need to bring anything. If you'd like to join us, please sign up using the link below:

🔗 **Volunteer Form:** <https://wkf.ms/4d5mD2g>

Once you sign up, you'll receive a confirmation email with details about parking, check-in, and your shift assignment as the dates get near. Thank you for helping us transform this house into a welcoming home. Your time and energy directly support families on their journey toward stability and belonging.

The United Way of Kaw Valley (UWKV) is hosting their **first ever volunteer fair** on Monday, April 27th at noon at the Lawrence Public Library. Presented in partnership with the Lawrence Public Library (LPL) and UWKV, this event brings together 15-20 local organizations who need an extra hand. If you have been looking to get more involved in mission, but your schedule hasn't allowed, this is a great opportunity to get acquainted with these nonprofits and learn about ways to get plugged in that work for you. You can also visit <https://www.kawvalleyvolunteers.org/> to view a list of other local volunteer opportunities.

During spring move-out, tons of perfectly usable items end up in the trash. The Lawrence Habitat ReStore is partnering with **KU Housing, Just Food, and the Lawrence Humane Society to collect items**. This partnership helps us reduce waste and ultimately help members of the Lawrence community. We can't do this important event without volunteer support~! Choose a shift and help us! Contact Lawrence Habitat for Humanity at 785-832-0777.



breadfortheworld
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

Bread for the World – Offering of Letters – FPC is once again participating in the Offering of Letters, an annual initiative organized by Bread for the World. This national faith-based organization advocates for both domestic and international food security. The 2026 Campaign Focus centers on urging legislators to restore, protect, and strengthen vital US nutrition programs. Specifically, the campaign seeks to:

- Fully fund SNAP: Ensure every eligible individual receives their full benefits.
- Support WIC Modernization: Advocate for the passage of the Modern WIC / 21st Century WIC Act, legislation introduced in the Senate by Kansas Senator Roger Marshall

You can join this effort to help families put food on the table in the following ways:

- Join the letter-writing effort on April 26 and May 3
- Visit the table in the Narthex to find postcards and sample text for contacting your representative and senators

Use your voice to live out the message of Matthew 25:40: *“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters, you did for me.”*

FPC Justice Matters Network update - We are looking toward **the April 26 Nehemiah Action Assembly at 2pm at the Double Tree Hotel**. We hope to have an update on the Elder Care Issue. Youth Trauma is the active issue this year. We narrowed the Solution to Nurse Family Partnership (NFP). The NFP program with Changnet has been in operation for decades. The program has proven to be effective to prevent childhood trauma. This program would be added to the present programs in Douglas County that support families, such as Healthy Families and Home Visit programs. NFP would be an additional action for those first time Moms needing more intense support.

Many thanks to the youth for providing a great breakfast for us on Easter Morning!

