



First Press

Weekly Newsletter

May 3, 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!

Adult and Youth Sunday School

- **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 10th.

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!

"Don't Worry, Be Happy" Join the Lawrence Community Handbell Choir for their spring concert today, May 3rd at 3:00 pm at Eudora United Methodist Church, 1310 W. 20th Street in Eudora. You will have your spirits raised and walk out in a better place than when you walked in! Because now you are singing that song in your head!

Calling all Graduates! We want to celebrate with you. Please let us know where you are graduating from and what degree you have earned so that we can include it in our newsletter and acknowledge you in worship in May!

Congratulations to Joshua Vincent who will graduate from KU in May with his bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering. *"I wish I could say it was easy, but completing this program in four years is probably going to go down as the hardest thing I will ever achieve. After I graduate, I will take a break from school and go straight to the industry in the Washington DC area. I am so thankful for this church community that has introduced me to so many kind and interesting people, gave me spiritual guidance, and most importantly, fed me. Thank you all so much. Rock Chalk!"* Joshua

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 11th at 6:00 pm at the Oread Hotel. Tickets are available at www.justfoodks.org or call 785-856-7030.

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 repairs 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.



Middle School and High School Youth Trip - Come spend an unforgettable week at Ghost Ranch—a place where faith, friendship, and adventure come to life. Together we'll worship, serve, play and experience God's presence in the beauty of the New Mexico high desert.



Rev. Claudia Aguilar Rubalcava will guide us in exploring the rich diversity of humanity and life, discovering new ways to connect with our faith and each other and providing experiences we can take back into our daily lives. All worship and reflection opportunities will be interfaith and provide opportunity for youth participation and engagement. We will practice the principles we learn in worship both at the Ranch and with local community partners during meaningful service projects.

Ghost Ranch's Summer Staff will lead fun, joyous activities to foster team-building and playful spirits as we dive into both creative pursuits and outdoor adventures.

Contact Kelly Grube for more information – 785-979-2713

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.





Tired of all of the T-shirts? Good News! Moving forward we will have one all-purpose T-shirt to wear whenever we attend community events. The shirt lets folks know who we are, what we stand for, and helps us spread the message about our vibrant congregation. VISIT the Matthew 25 table in the Narthex the next few Sundays to view the new shirt design and preorder your size. Adult and children's sizes are available. A suggested \$20 donation per shirt to replenish the Mission budget is appreciated.

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.”*

Family Promise News

Happy Spring to everyone! What great weather for walking or running before it gets too hot! The **Family Promise 5K Home Run** is scheduled for Monday, May 25th at 8:30am starting in South Park! Virtual participants can walk or run anytime from May 19-25!

How about joining our FPC team! I will be in the Narthex for the next few Sundays to register YOU for our team! If you are not able to join in the run, you can support the FPC Team by making a donation. Hope you will join us! Lois Dutcher, FP coordinator



Did you know that FPC loans out durable medical equipment for short term (or long term) use? If you are having surgery and need a walker, a cane, a bath seat or transfer bench, a toilet riser, or ice machine....we probably have it! Give us a call to check out equipment as needed. We are glad we can help. If you are looking for a place to donate these items please check us out. We must be able to move things up and down the stairs, so we can't accept beds, recliners and things like that. We can allow folks to use their medical expenses and benefits wisely and provide



Join the Parade on June 6th! The Lawrence Pride Parade is right around the corner. Join us as we gather at 11 am on Saturday, June 6 for a joyous walk down Mass street. Wear your old pride shirt or purchase the new FPC T-shirt. We also have a few free shirts from previous pride events. Stop by the table in the Narthex to sign up today!

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.

What is Per Capita? Why do we collect it? In these days of diminishing resources and tight budgets, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) continues to seek new and innovative ways to provide ministry and support to mid councils (presbyteries and synods) across the country.

Presbyterians have used per capita - an annual per member apportionment assessed by the General Assembly (*Book of Order*, G-3.0106; see also Standing Rule F.4.b.), and by many synods and presbyteries, to enable Presbyterians mutually and equitably to share the ecclesiastical and administrative costs of sustaining our witness to Christ - as a sign of the covenant that binds us together. General Assembly per capita is the primary source of funding for the Office of the General Assembly and makes possible numerous services on which Presbyterians depend, including the biennial meeting of the General Assembly.

First Presbyterian Church participates in the collection of per capita for all members of the church. The \$42.00 helps to support the Presbytery of Northern Kansas, Synod of Mid-America, and the General Assembly of PC(USA). If you are interested in helping us offset this amount coming out of our budget, you can do that by providing funds for members in your family who are members of the church in the amount of \$42.00 each. That frees up \$42.00 of our budget to do other work for us here in Lawrence. Please mark your gift for Per Capita. Thank you for your prayerful giving!

UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS	KU Voice & Opera	LIVESTREAM via KU School of Music Youtube
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DMA VOICE RECITAL
MAY 9TH, 2026
Soprano
MADDIE JAMES



Featuring:
 Erin Zipper, piano
 Kailun Hu, baritone
 Stella Markou, soprano

**Swarthout Recital Hall
 Murphy Hall - KU Campus**

Including the works of:
 Barber, Bizet, Obradors, Schubert, Tosti and more!

7:30PM



★ JOIN US TO SERVE ★
TACOS AT LINK
 SATURDAY, MAY 23 @ 11:30 AM
 221 W. 10TH ST.



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, May 22 between 9:00 AM-3:00 PM OR bring directly to LINK on May 23 by 11:30 AM.