



# First Press

Weekly Newsletter

First Presbyterian Church

November 19, 2023

## 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

We will be closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday on November 23 and 24.

## Welcome!

Welcome to everyone, 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.

**Please be sure to sign the Friendship Pad if you are worshipping with us in person.** If you join us on-line, live, or recorded - **please send us an email letting us know you joined us in worship.**

## Prayer List

Cares, Concerns, Celebrations

- **David Fitzcharles** is home with hospice care. Prayers for him and his wife, Alice and their family
- **Loren Dolezal** is home exploring next steps following his hospitalization and diagnosis.
- **Frances Lintecum** is now at Presbyterian Manor.
- **Kerstin Roberts** had her knee replacement surgery rescheduled for December 13. Peace in her waiting.
- **Jan Roth** is recovering from surgery on a broken arm. Prayers for healing and strength.
- **Linda Watts** had knee surgery and is home and doing rehab.
- **Remember our Friends joining us on-line** so that they feel included.
- **Shannon Ruiz**, great-niece of Eva Alley, is struggling with health issues that cost her both feet. Prayers for spiritual strength are most appreciated.

- **George Crump** is asking for prayers in support of his health and well-being.
- **Kristi McAlister**, FPC member and daughter of Pat McAlister, who is facing some serious health challenges.

**Flowers on the Chancel today** are in celebration Karen and Henry Johns 49<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on November 17<sup>th</sup>! We also have flowers celebrating the wedding anniversary of Erinn and Greg Barcomb Peterson who are celebrating today. Congratulations!

## Care

### Deacon Family Groups - 2023

A-Bra	Grace Nganga	Mc-Mz	Nancy Rumsey
Bro-C	Janet Adams	N-Q	Sandy Groene
D-E	Diana Schoneweis	R-Sc	Linda Longino
F-Go	Jeanine Tiemann	Se-So	Russ Heikes
Gr-Hi	Larry Schlosser	St-T	Allen MacFarlane
Ho-K	Charles Tuttle	U-Z	Peggy Southard
L-Ma	Linda Upstill		

## Birthdays in the Congregation

November 20

Jenni Koger

November 21

Nora Wallace

Claire Harding

Callie Livingood

November 22

Mburu Nganga

November 22

Mburu Nganga

Suzanne Galle

November 24

Don Nease

November 25

Hayley Lindemyer

## Sunday Helpers

**Ushers and Greeters:** Myron Shipley, Eva Alley, Larry Schlosser, Larry Maxey

**Securing the Offering:** Jeff Southard and Jim Rumsey

**Friendship Pad Collector:** Petra Peterson

**Mugger:** Margie Dyck

## Calendar

November 19

9:00 am	Sunday Nursery Open
9:15 am	Sunday School for All Ages
10:30 am	Worship
11:30 am	EcoTeam Meeting
3:00 pm	Men's Cornhole and Dinner

#### November 20

1:15 pm Staff Meeting  
2:00 pm Pastor Helen's Class  
6:00 pm Westminster Ringers Rehearsal

#### November 21

2:00 pm Parkinson's Support Group  
6:00 pm Deacon Meeting

#### November 22

7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 59

#### November 23 and 24

Church Office Closed for Thanksgiving

#### November 26

9:00 am Sunday Nursery Open  
9:15 am Sunday School for All Ages  
10:30 am Worship  
5:30 pm Youth Shopping for Adopt a Family

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### Adult Sunday School Offerings

- **Roundtable Class** continues a series on how current news topics can be analyzed in a biblical context using the curriculum called "The Wired Word". Dialogue and reflection will be encouraged. Lessons are designed to help participants see biblical scriptures through a challenging and hopeful manner. They will consist of a one-page news entry, scriptural passages, and suggested questions for discussion. We will meet in the Fireside Room.
- **Paul Laird** series entitled, "**Psalms Ancient and Modern**" concludes this Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>. The Book of Psalms has been revered by all that worship in Judeo-Christian traditions. In this class we will consider the Psalms as they exist in the Old Testament and the way these texts have been set by various composers from the Middle Ages to the present. All are welcome to join this group in Fellowship Hall.

### Adult Offerings during the week

- **Pastor Helen's Class meets on Mondays at a new time! 2:00 pm in the Fireside Room**  
We continue our advent study on Joseph. We are using Adam Hamilton's book, *Faithful: Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph*. No need to purchase the book unless you want to! Hamilton describes the study this way: *From the beginnings as a humble carpenter to his all-important role as the earthly father of Jesus Christ, Joseph's place in the nativity story is sometimes overlooked but contains valuable lessons for all of us. Absent from much of the biblical narrative, Joseph never spoke a word, but his courageous actions were crucial to the birth of Christ and God's salvation plan for humanity. In this study, we will understand how Joseph's story is much like our own. In life, we encounter circumstances that we would never have chosen for ourselves. At times it can be tempting just to walk away. Joseph provides us a great example of humbly obeying God even when we don't understand and faithfully moving forward in the strength that God provides.*
- **The Men's Group** meets on Friday morning at 10:00 am in the Fireside Room for a time of fellowship (pun intended). Come join the discussion which can cover almost anything! Contact Charles Tuttle for more information at [cftuttle@gmail.com](mailto:cftuttle@gmail.com)

### Adult Education Advent Series begins November 26 – Advent Through the Eyes of Those Who Waited

This class will meet in the Fireside Room at 9:15 am. During these weeks the people of the Advent texts will guide us on our way to the coming of the Messiah. First, we meet with the Hebrew prophet Isaiah. Then we go to the Jordan to encounter the Jewish prophet John the Baptist. During the last two weeks we sit in the company of Mary, the mother of Jesus and Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist. These passages encourage us to slow down and attend to the wonders of the coming Messiah. Rod Nitz will be facilitating this series.

**Matthew 25 invites you to sign up!** Last year the Matthew 25 Committee started an opt-in email list to provide periodic updates on bills being introduced in the state legislature and other local and state issues affecting our neighbors. Our primary sources are the advocacy organizations working to ensure that all Kansans receive fair representation and treatment under the state laws and regulations. Sign up is easy – just send an email to Mary Warren at [themarywarren@gmail.com](mailto:themarywarren@gmail.com) and say "I want to opt-in".

**FPC's Special Christmas Giving Program 2023** continues through December 10th. Forms are available in the Narthex. Please consider a gift to one or more of the organizations to assist those in need around the world. Your gifts can support Family Promise, Habitat for Humanity, Lawrence Community Shelter, Warm Hearts, Willow Domestic Violence Center, FPC's First 5 Years Scholarship Fund, Heifer International Just Food or Presbyterian Disaster Fund. Thank you!

**The Mitten Tree** is a way we help keep our friends and neighbors warm during the cold months of winter. You can bring mittens, socks, gloves, hats, scarves, blankets – all the warm things - to share! Decorate the tree now through the first part of December. We will gather up all of your gifts and take them to organizations who provide them to families so they can use their money for other holiday needs and wants for their children. After we collect your warm gifts, we will convert the tree to the Star Tree for our First 5 Years classrooms. They will post their wish lists on the tree, and you can choose one or two stars to purchase for the children in our First 5 Years program.



**The First 5 Years Art Calendar is on sale now!** The calendar features art work by each of the classes in the program. Calendars are \$10 each with all proceeds going to the scholarship fund. If you would like to order a calendar, please fill out the order forms available in the Narthex or in the church office. Include your payment and we will forward it to Jennifer Jones. Orders must be received by December 4<sup>th</sup>. Calendars will be ready for pickup the week of December 11<sup>th</sup>. Questions? Contact Jennifer

Jones at [jennifer@firstpreslawrence.org](mailto:jennifer@firstpreslawrence.org) or 785-842-8291. Thank you for your support!

**Many Thanks for the Presbyterian Women** – Presbyterian Women thank all who shared their time and donations and shopped at our silent auction the past two Sundays. We are grateful for your support so we can continue with our community projects and scholarships for our graduating high school seniors. Special thanks to Larry Flottman and Jerry Chandler for their untiring efforts too! Carol Kyner, PW Moderator

### **Family Faith Focus – Gratitude**

Traditionally, children are encouraged to share what they are thankful for at school, church, and within family life. A slightly different approach is to recognize people and experiences which elicit gratitude. Set aside a family dinner time to bring out picture of family members and fun times that your family has shared during the past year. Currently, most family photos are stored on cell phones, so bring them out and share picture along with statements saying, “I am grateful for....” End the activity with prayer. *God, we are forever grateful for all our family members and friend. We remember all the fun times we have had this year. We are always grateful for the love we experience as people in your creation.*

### **Congratulations to our new and returning Church Officers**

**Elders:** Marilyn Heikes and bobbie-frances mcdonald

**Deacons:** Mary Warren, Becky May, and Lois Dutcher

**Nominating Committee:** Cherie Hoover, Erinn Barcomb-Peterson, and Margie Dyck

We still have openings for each of these offices. If you are interested in serving the church – even for one year – your participation will be welcome!

### **Save the Dates!**

**Friday, December 15 at 7:30** the Westminster Ringers and Organist David Pérez will share a variety of Christmas Music with us and our community. Invite your friends to join you for this musical offering of the season.

**Sunday, December 17** during worship we will share in a service of Lessons and Carols led by the Chancel Choir and several other musicians and voices. Following worship, we invite you to gather for our Annual Christmas Dinner for the whole congregation.

**Sunday, December 24** we will worship together at 10:30 am and 7:00 pm

*Christmas Music*



**Christmas Dinner**



## Calendar & Info for Sunday School

Children ages Pre-K through 5th grade & Youth SS Class

Dec  
3

### Winter Service Project

During SS time (9:15am)

Dec  
17

### Children's Choir Performance

During Worship (10:30am)

Dec  
24 & 31

### No Sunday School Classes

Happy Holidays!

## Calendar & Info for Youth Group

Youth ages 6th grade - 12th grade

- **11/26/23:** Youth Group Time (5:30pm-7pm)
  - This week we will be going shopping for gifts for our holiday "Adopt-A-Family"! Meet at the church at 5:30pm then we'll load up to go shopping! We'll be back at the church by 7pm.
- **12/10/23:** Youth Group Time @ church (5:30pm-7pm)
  - Gingerbread House making and Cooking Decorating! Bring a friend!
- **1/07/24:** Youth Retreat @ FPC (10:30am-3:00pm)

**Info & Registration for 2024  
Mission Trip with PNKS**

