



First Press

Weekly Newsletter

First Presbyterian Church

February 18, 2024

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. **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.**

Prayers

Cares, Concerns, and Celebrations

- **Gwen Larson** died on February 16 at Brandon Woods. Her services were held at FPC on Saturday, February 24. Prayers for Jill Bradney and the rest of their family as they grieve.
- **Linda Almon** will have surgery March 1st at Olathe Medical Center
- **Tonja and Adam Rounds** ask for our prayers as Tonja recovers from brain surgery. The MRI showed that they removed all the tumor and we are grateful for that good news!
- **Allison Clunn-McPlin and family**, friends of Dave and Lois Dutcher. Allison was diagnosed with an aggressive form of ALS 6 days after the birth of baby girl, Mary.
- **Remember our Friends joining us on-line** so that they feel included.
- **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.

Care

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

February 26

Bob Silipigni

February 27

Joyce Rankin

March 2

Marilyn Heikes

Kathy Clausing-Willis

Sunday Helpers

Ushers: Heather Soper, Marin and Cherie Hoover

Greeters: Oertel Family

Securing the Offering: Linda Watts

Friendship Pad Collector: Petra Peterson

Mugger: Kathryn Roblee

Calendar

February 25

9:00 am	Sunday Nursery Open
9:15 am	Sunday School for Children and Youth
9:15 am	Apostles and Discipleship Class
10:30 am	Worship
11:30 am	Annual Meeting of the Congregation
5:30 pm	Youth Dinner at Pastor Helen's

February 26

9:00 am	First 5 Years Classes
1:15 pm	Staff Meeting
2:00 pm	Pastor Helen's Class
6:00 pm	Cub Scout Den Meeting – Schwaller
6:00 pm	Westminster Ringers Rehearsal
7:00 pm	First 5 Years Board Meeting

February 27

9:00 am	First 5 Years Classes
1:00 pm	Small World Classes

February 28

- 9:00 am First 5 Years Classes
- 5:30 pm Lent Dinner – Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 pm Lent Worship – Chapel
- 7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 59 Meeting
- 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

February 29

- 9:00 am First 5 Years Classes
- 1:00 pm Small World Classes

March 1

- 10:00 am Men's Group

March 2

- 9:30 am Justice Matters Research Meeting
- 1:00 pm Boy Scout Leadership Training

March 3

- 9:00 am Sunday Nursery Open
- 9:15 am Sunday School for Children and Youth
- 9:15 am Apostles and Discipleship Class
- 10:30 am Worship
- 11:30 am Presby Pickers Rehearsal

Annual Meeting of the Congregation – Sunday, February 25 immediately after worship

The purpose of this meeting is:

- ❖ Receive the 2024 Budget
- ❖ Receive the Annual Report
- ❖ Approve the Pastor's Terms of Call
- ❖ Elect a Deacon for a one-year term.
- ❖ Elect the Nominating Committee at large members for 2024

This is a wonderful opportunity to participate in the life of ministry at First Presbyterian Church! See you there!

Children and Youth

- All ages meet first in the Chapel for music and stories. Then they move to their classrooms for lessons and more. Check at the Welcome Center or come to the Chapel for more information. All children are welcome to join anytime!

Calendar & Info for Sunday School

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

Mar
24

Children's Choir Sings During Worship

Mar
24

Easter Egg Hunt 2:00pm-3:00pm

Adult Sunday School Classes

- **The Apostles and Discipleship** – Continues through March 24th in the Fireside Room with Pastor Helen. She is focusing on the ministry of Peter in worship and offers this option to compare and contrast the various ministries of the Apostles. All are welcome to join the class and discussion.

Adult Offerings during the week

- **Pastor Helen's Class meets on Mondays at 2:00 pm in the Fireside Room**
Come hear Helen talk about her trip to Greece last fall as she leads the group on *The Second and Third Missionary Journeys of Paul*.
- **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

Calendar & Info for Youth Group

Youth ages 6th grade - 12th grade

Feb
25

Dinner @ Pastor Helen's
5:30pm-7:00pm

Mar
17

Youth Group Time @ FPC
5:30pm-7:00pm

Mar
31

Easter Breakfast
9:15am-10:15am

Apr
14

Youth Group Time @ FPC
5:30pm-7:00pm

Contact CE Coordinator & Youth Director Angela Pérez for more info
angela@firstpreslawrence.org

Ushers and Greeters needed for Sunday mornings – If you can arrive or be available in the Narthex a little early one or two Sunday's a month to say hello and good morning as folks come in the door – we need to talk to you! If you like to meet new people and help them find their way around the church – we need to talk to you! If you can hand out the worship bulletins and help people find a seat – we need to talk to you! Contact Pat McAlister at pmcalist@sbcglobal.net or Cherie Hoover Elo at chercrow@gmail.com to join a group. You will be glad you did!



Easter Lilies – Forms to order an Easter Lily in memory of or in honor of special people in your life are on the table in the Narthex. Suggested gifts are \$15.00 for each lily requested. You may take them after Easter Worship on March 31 or after 9 am on Tuesday, April 2. Thank you for making our Sanctuary beautiful for Easter!

Thank you for your help making our Souper Bowl as successful as the Chief's were! Your donations will provide a meal for many folks in our area through the services of Just Food.

You provided 229 pounds of canned goods to Just Foods!
Our Youth are grateful for your support too!



Diaper Drive - Thanks for your support of our most recent Eagle Scout project. Sarah Whittaker reports that she collected over 4000 diapers during her drive and appreciates the use of the building as a drop off location. There are many happier babies out there as a result of your efforts!



Opportunities During Lent

*** Wednesday Evening Light Dinner at 5:30 pm and Worship at 6:30 pm
Feb. 28, and March 6, 13, 20 Choose dinner or Worship or both!**

Come enjoy a light dinner at 5:30 in Fellowship Hall and then at 6:30 we will move to the chapel for a worship service. This service will be focused on prayer beads (each week you will add a prayer bead). It is a more contemplative service that lasts for about a half an hour. Sign up to help with the dinner in the Narthex today!



*** Adult Sunday School during Lent – Sunday Mornings at 9:15 am
Apostles and Discipleship**

As we are looking at the faith journey of Peter in worship, we will take time to look at all the Apostles and what they can teach us about discipleship. Pastor Helen will be leading this class. February 18 – March 24.

*** Sunday Morning Worship Our Wandering Hearts**

This Lent, I am using a resource called Sacred Art that focuses on the life and faith of one of Jesus' most famous disciples. In Peter, we see a person who is both steadfast and unsteady, a dear friend and a betrayer, a follower and a wanderer. In Peter, we often see ourselves. By following Peter's journey, we watch the story of Jesus unfold through the eyes of a very normal human trying to figure it all out - just like us.

As we were studying Peter's faith journey, the lyrics of "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" came to mind. For each step in Peter's journey, we have selected a phrase from this hymn. As we follow Peter's story, we will sing our way through Lent, binding our wandering hearts to God.



February 25 th	2 nd Sunday in Lent	Sermon: <i>Rescue Me from Danger</i>
March 3 rd	3 rd Sunday in Lent	Sermon: <i>Praise the Mount</i>
March 10 th	4 th Sunday in Lent	Sermon: <i>I'm Fixed Upon It</i>
March 17	5 th Sunday in Lent	Sermon: <i>Teach Me</i>
March 24 th	Palm/Passion Sunday	Sermon: <i>Songs of Loudest Praise</i>
March 31 st	Easter	Sermon: <i>And I Hope</i>
April 7	2 nd Sunday of Easter	Sermon: <i>Here's My Heart</i>

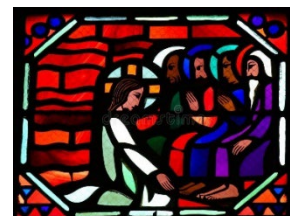
In this series, we want to affirm that faith is a constant journey of steadfast pursuit, one that ebbs and flows. We want to affirm that wandering is exploration, not necessarily distance from God. We want to affirm the ways Peter keeps going: he drops his nets, he walks on water, he runs to the empty tomb, he swims to the shore to meet the risen Christ. He keeps searching and yearning and loving, even after missteps or mistakes. Ultimately, in Peter's story, we are reminded that God loves imperfect people—in fact, time and again, that's precisely who God claims and calls.

**Maundy Thursday Worship – March 28 at 5:30 pm
Dinner and Worship**

Come Thou Fount theme: Streams of Mercy

Good Friday Worship – March 29 at 5:30 pm

Come Thou Fount theme: Prone to leave the God I love



First 5 Years – Butter Braid Fundraiser



First 5 Years program will be selling the Butter Braid pastries again this year to raise money for the First 5 Years scholarship fund. If you would like to purchase some delicious pastries (they are great for Easter brunch!), Linda Longino will be in the narthex on February 25 and March 3 at 10:25 and after worship, so stop by to see her! Payment is due at the time of order, cash and checks (made out to FPC First 5 Years) are accepted. You may also order at our online store, <https://store.myfundraisingplace.com/c4a75d86-882e-4d6509b34-ad227fe1bf7f>

If ordering online, please make sure you order under the name "Congregation, Fpc" to ensure your order stays at the church and does not get sent home with a student. All orders will be available for pickup, at the church, on March 18th after 12:00 pm, shipping is not an option. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Jones at jennifer@firstpreslawrence.org or 785-842-8291

Douglas County Interfaith Mental Health Outreach – A Community Collaboration

Thursday, February 29, 2024 - 6:00 - 7:30 pm – Lawrence Public Library Auditorium – 707 Vermont

You are invited to attend a public event to explore how our faith communities can become an integral support for anyone facing mental health challenges. If you have a desire to help people through your faith community, join us to voice your ideas, learn what other local congregations' mental health teams are doing, and discover new mental health and addiction resources available in our area.

News from the Mission Committee

* Matthew 25

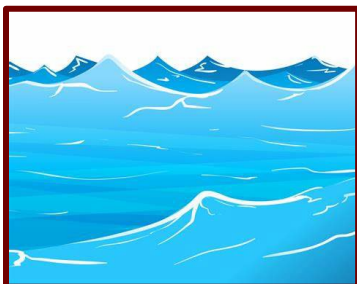
Because the world would die without it, we go with God's love

How You can Support the Effort for Medicaid Expansion

Advocacy organizations across Kansas are campaigning for the State Legislature to expand Medicaid coverage to help meet the medical needs of the working poor in our state and save our rural hospitals. Being a Matthew 25 Church compels us to join in this effort as Christ stated in Matthew 25 - "*whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.*"

Stop by the Medicaid Expansion table in the Narthex before or after church this Sunday to find out how you can help. We will have information on

- Why Medicaid Expansion is so urgently needed.
- How to contact your legislators from the comfort of your home including examples of what to say and contact information for your representative.
- The Alliance for Healthy Kansas Medicaid Expansion Rally **Wednesday March 6th from 12:30-1:30 pm Second Floor Rotunda of the Statehouse.** This is an important state-wide advocacy event to show legislators that Kansans want Medicaid expansion. You only need to show up and stand with the crowd to show your support. We will have sign-up sheets for carpooling. Find more information about the rally at: <https://expandkancare.com/event/2024-rally/>



Rescue me from danger!

MUSIC

@ First Presbyterian Church
Lawrence, KS

Notes



LENTEN ORGAN RECITAL SERIES

Sunday, March 10: featuring **Edward Poston**
3:00pm

Sunday, March 24: featuring **David Pérez**
3:00pm

First Presbyterian Church Sanctuary

CHILDREN'S CHOIR PERFORMANCE

Sunday, March 24

Palm Sunday

10:30am

During Worship

For more information contact our Music Director
Angela Pérez (angela@firstpreslawrence.org)