



First Press

Weekly Newsletter

First Presbyterian Church

October 19, 2025

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 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.

Cards of Encouragement: Blue cards found in the pew rack ~ please put in offering plate and we will send them out in the mail.

Sermon Series – What Is in Your Hand?

In October we are leaning into “What is in Your Hand?” This refers to God's statement to Moses when he keeps saying he is not the one to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. God then reminds Moses that Moses has what he needs. It might be helpful for First Presbyterian Church to consider all the amazing gifts and resources that “are in our hands”.

Children Sunday School

• Sunday School Classes for Children

- On October 19 Chris Heider and Linda Longino will lead the class on the topic of “Trust and Share – All Are Fed” - Living in Community. We will meet in room 14.

Youth and Adult Sunday School Classes – Join us in the Fireside Room where Paul Laird will be teaching a three-week class on **Music in the New Testament**. This will be a “shorter than usual” class as Paul has to leave at 10 for Choir Rehearsal which is **Music in Worship at FPC**

Youth Activities

- **October 26** – Taco-tober / Halloween All Church Game Night! Plan to dress in a costume and be on the lookout for a food sign up sheet. Our dinner will be a taco bar.
- **November 30** – Stay after church and help “Deck the Halls.” We will also make ornaments with the EcoTeam and have a Pizza lunch.
- **December 7** – Annual Youth Holiday Party – location and details TBA

- **January 4, 2026** – FPC Winter Break Youth Retreat – 11:30 to 6 pm – will include art, cooking, lunch, games, service opportunities, fellowship time, and lots more! Other area church youth will be invited.

Do you have something you want to add to the calendar? Need more information? Contact Kelly Jones-Grube at 785-691-7445 or Kellygal78@hotmail.com

Pastor Helen's Monday Class This week, Monday October 20th we start a new class called "What Presbyterians Believe." In this class we will approach subjects that are often avoided in PCUSA (and many mainline churches) and will talk about such themes as Satan, heaven, hell, predestination, second coming, and the rapture. The class meets on Monday afternoon at 2 pm in the Fireside Room.

First Annual FPC Chili Cook-off! It was a success! First place winner, Larry Flottman, took home a chili bowl and ladle. Second place went to Jeff Southard who won ladle to use next year to serve up his chili. Thank you all for participating in this fun event. We plan to have the Second Annual Chili Cook-Off in 2026!

Check out these short videos of the event taken by Charles Tuttle. Thank you.

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/GXPb6wnJQwgRZNNe8>

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/VoF1z8zEkGi6x32y7>

A Taco Bar * Games * Costumes

Everything to make a really fun evening for **everyone!**
Sign up to bring something for the taco bar [here!](#)

Wear your favorite costume for extra fun.

Bring a friend to share dinner and a game at FPC!



Come and join the fun: Presbyterian Women are hosting a "Chrismon Workshop". We are preparing Chrismon Christmas ornaments to decorate our Christmas tree in the sanctuary this Winter. Chrismons are symbols of Christian beliefs and help to tell the story of Christ's birth and ministry. Some of our present ornaments need to be refreshed or replaced. This is your opportunity to help make some new ornaments! **We will meet on Sunday, October 19 at 2:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room.** If you have any of the following items, please bring them along: scissors, a thin sewing needle, gold and/or white thread, gold, pearl, or white beads and sequins, or other gold or white embellishments. We look forward to seeing you!

Mission Events to put on your calendar!

On Saturday, October 18 (1:30 PM): FPC is hosting Halloween Bingo at Presbyterian Manor. Join us for an afternoon of fun and Bingo! Everyone is welcome.

Come and share with our members and friends at the Manor who may not be able to join us in the building, but are a part of our church family.



Family Promise - This week of October 12-18 has been our host week with Connect Church for Family Promise of Lawrence. We at FPC prepared a meal, served, and spent time with the two families of 14 individuals at Mt. Hope on Friday evening. Many FPC members also provided the list of food needs for the week for the families. Others provided money for 7 \$25 gift cards for Dillons for other of our Family Promise families. Thank you to all who helped with this important mission in any way. You are all appreciated so much and a blessing to your community. Thank you to all FPC members for your prayers for Family Promise of Lawrence. Peace and love, Lois Dutcher

Matthew 25 information for you –

What do you know about Haskell Indian Nations University (HINU)?

After major funding cuts to Haskell funds in February, FPC and other churches have planned ways to assist Haskell while learning about their needs and joining with staff and students to provide help. The Presbyterian Church including the Presbytery of Northern Kansas, is seeking input from individuals about their knowledge of Haskell and the importance of their place in our state and region.

Complete the survey and you could win a \$20 gift certificate to Dillions! Just visit the Matthew 25 table before or after worship the next few Sundays and complete a short multiple-choice survey. The survey asks about your knowledge of Haskell Indian Nations University and issues facing our Native American neighbors. The information from the survey will be used to develop an educational presentation for FPC and other churches in the Northern Kansas Presbytery. Thank you for your participation!

Justice Matters - Embracing Hope and Power

It feels like our communities are polarized and disconnected. We all would like to have hope for unity and feel that our community members are valued. It has been said that people need to gather more, share stories and strengthen connections. Fall is the time for Justice Matters small gatherings to share our concerns regarding Justice in our community. We share stories to connect our justice work to the reality of our lives and our neighbors. This year, Justice Matters is not picking a new issue. Rather we want to build and deepen relationships, and maybe even reconnect personally with each other in a world that is becoming increasingly disconnected and divided. As people of faith, we are called to be hopeful in contrast to despair and fear. Our justice work may be the remedy to the division in our society; it might be how we heal our democracy. Please join us for a small gathering to start healing our community (snacks provided). Let's "Do Justice" together:

- October 19 - 11:45am-1pm FPC Library



We at First Presbyterian Church acknowledge that long before the church was built, these lands were cared for by indigenous peoples including the Arapaho, Cheyenne, Comanche, Kiowa, Pawnee, Osage, and Kanza. We honor their people, their wisdom, past and present.

Today, Haskell Indian Nation University is a focal point of the Lawrence Native community. As the de facto national tribal college, its student body is regularly composed of citizens from over 100 Native Nations, and Lawrence boasts a sizable Native population.

Therefore, as an institution rooted in faith, local communities, and history, First Presbyterian Church fully acknowledges and celebrates the native cultures and organizations that make Lawrence stronger. Furthermore, we recognize the experiences of Native people in our own community and elsewhere in an effort to heal and bring forth a brighter tomorrow.

New Documentary from PDA – The most recent documentary from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is called “Evicting the American Dream” and is now available on Amazon Prime. In a compelling way, this film amplifies the voices and stories of children and families confronting eviction and homelessness. Through interviews with pediatric psychologists, social workers, tenant rights organizations, housing authority officials, and eviction lawyers, this film explores the root causes and systemic issues that perpetuate this epidemic and ways in which it is preventable. Click on the title to access the film. [Evicting the American Dream](#)



ECO-TIPS – The EcoTeam will provide tips from time to time in the newsletter for ways to be a good steward and conservator of our earth. Did you realize that there is a recycling center at FPC? There are bins and drawers in the southwest corner of Fellowship Hall that are available to collect your plastic, metal, used batteries, old eyeglasses and more!

Thanks to Dave Kyner who takes the glasses to a place where they will be put to good use. Help with this recycling effort by donating those eyeglasses and other recyclables that you no longer use!

SHARE THE GOOD



First 5 Years of FPC is having a scholarship fundraiser selling Butter Braid Bread! If you have had this before you know it is a great product. If you haven't tried their bread or cookies yet, you should.

Linda Longino will be in the Narthex this Sunday and next (October 19 and 26) to take your orders. Bring your checkbook as payment is due with your order.

You can also order online by clicking [here](#). Place your order under "First 5 Years Preschool" which you will scroll down to find after you open the link. Thank you for your support of our First 5 Years program and the children who benefit from your gift!

Orders will be delivered on November 17 – just in time for your Thanksgiving entertaining!

Community Garden Harvest

We have been blessed to have Margie Dyck managing and maintaining our Community Garden this year.

We are looking for folks to help out so that next year we can provide produce to Just Food throughout the growing season. Please sign up on the Friendship Pad or call the church office at 785-843-4171, if you are willing to help make the garden happen in 2026. We work together!

