



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Helen Hutchison, Pastor

Linda Maxey, liturgist

August 23, 2026

Andrew Morris, organ

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Friendship Pads: Please help us maintain good communication with all our members and guests by completing the Friendship Register as it is passed from the end of each pew. Please let us know the best way to communicate with you. Be sure to greet folks new to you at the end of worship!

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

Congregational Introit

God of Grace and God of Glory
CWM RHONDDA

Glory to God #307

Call To Worship

One: A song deep in the heart of God causes us to pause in the midst of hurry. An eternal harmony breaks into our absent-minded repetition. A distant chorus echoing in our soul prompts us to look up and see a brightness beyond a cloudy day, a hint of a new heaven and earth.

All: We are connected to the Source of Care, the Fountain of Life, the Lover of Our Souls, the Eternal Parent, the Source of Comfort.

One: A fragment of an eternal tune, a memory of a friend's prayer, a sudden song of a morning dove, all link us to our Creator.

All: And we know we are loved with tender care, cherished with infinite patience and carried on the wings of prayer.

One: So let us sing our praise.

* Hymn of Praise

God of the Sparrow
ROEDER

Glory to God #22

* Call To Confession

Linda Maxey, liturgist

One: It is in our confession where we realize our desire for God and our hope for God's mercy. It is in admitting the truth of our lives that we take the first step toward wholeness and healing. So let us make our confession:

* Prayer of Confession

Linda Maxey, liturgist

Though we run so far away, we are never lost from you. Though we take everything for granted and dismiss your grace, you never leave us or forsake us. O Lord, we confess our tendencies to wander and to forget that all good things come from you. We become so self-absorbed that we don't see you sitting right next to us, desiring to wrap your arms around us. Open our eyes to your presence. Free us from the desire to take life into our own hands. Thank you for always welcoming us home, when we choose to trust our own ways and make our own paths. We choose today to follow only you.

* Silent Prayers of Confession

* Pouring the Water

* Words of Forgiveness

Linda Maxey, liturgist

One: On mountaintops and in valleys, in our homes and in our hearts, God knows us better than we know ourselves, and God forgives us when we cannot forgive ourselves. By God's mercy, we are forgiven; by God's mercy, we are made whole; by God's mercy, we are equipped to serve others. Thanks be to God. Amen.

- * **Passing the Peace** Linda Maxey, liturgist
 One: Knowing the grace and mercy of the Lord, we share it with one another.
 The peace of Christ be with you.
All: And also with you.
(Please greet one another and exchange signs of peace and reconciliation.)
- * **Hymn** GLORIA PATRI
Glory Be to the Father
Glory be to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.
Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.
- Prayer of Illumination** Linda Maxey, liturgist
 Holy One, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Spirit, that, as the scriptures are read
 and your word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. **Amen.**
- Hebrew Bible Reading** Jeremiah 29:10-14 Linda Maxey, liturgist
- Special Music** Summer Choir
Dr. Adrian Hartsough, director
- Gospel Reading** Luke 15:11-32
- Sermon** “God Waits” Rev. Dr. Helen Hutchison
- Hymn** *Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling* **Glory to God #418**
SOFTLY AND TENDERLY
- Prayer of the People and the Lord’s Prayer** from the Maori Tradition
 Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain bearer, Life-giver,
 Source of all that is and that shall be,
 Father and Mother of us all,
 Loving God, in whom is heaven:
 The hallowing of your name echo through the universe;
 The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world;
 Your heavenly will be done by all created beings;
 Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
 sustain our hope and come on earth.
 With the bread we need for today, feed us.
 In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
 In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
 From trial too great to endure, spare us.
 From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
 For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. **Amen.**
- The Offering** Andrew Morris, organist
- * **Doxology** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* **Glory to God #606**
Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above ye heav’nly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost
- * **Prayer of Dedication**
- * **Affirmation of Faith**
 We are not alone; we live in God’s world. We believe in God who has created and is creating; who
 has come to us in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new; who works in us and
 others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church, to celebrate God’s presence; to
 live with respect in creation; to love and serve others; to seek justice and resist evil; to proclaim

Jesus' message of hope, inclusion and grace. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.
We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

* **Closing Hymn**

What Is the World Like (verses 1,2,3,5)
NEW WORLD

Glory to God #771

* **Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

Andrew Morris, organist

* Stand as you are able – in spirit or in body

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; 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, please talk to Pastor Helen.

Flowers today are in celebration of the 70th Wedding Anniversary of Carl and Sammie Locke on August 25th. Congratulations!

Prayer List

Cares, Concerns and Celebrations

- **We celebrate with Dorcas Djifa Gavi** for completing all the steps required to become a naturalized citizen of the United States of America. She just awaits the formal ceremony. Congratulations!
- **Ann McMillian, mother of Annette Camlin**, died on Wednesday, August 19, 2026, at Hospice House in Omaha, NE. Prayers for her family for their loss.
- **Prayers for Marin and Pearl Hoover and their family** as they share end of life with their grandmother Hoover who is in hospice at LMH
- **Kelly Grube** is receiving a round of chemotherapy and is grateful for our prayer support.
- **Kristi McAlister** continues to receive cancer treatments. Kristi and Pat McAlister (her mother) are grateful for our continued prayers and support.
- **Betty Thomas, Joy Laird's mother**, is receiving hospice care at Presbyterian Manor. Prayers please.
- **Diana Schoneweis' great nephew, Luke (12)**, completed chemotherapy Prayers for healing.
- **George Crump** asks for our prayers as he navigates life issues.
- **Sammie Locke** is receiving care at Bridge Haven where she lives.
- **Allison Clunn-McPlin and family**, friends of Dave and Lois Dutcher. Allison has ALS and has entered a clinical trial which has proven helpful to her. They are encouraged. Thank you for your prayer support.

- **Susan and Pat** - dealing with health concerns.
- **Nancy Brink**, a friend of Lois and Dave Dutcher, asks for prayers as she copes with brain and lung cancer.

Sunday Helpers

Ushers: We need volunteers!

Greeters: Mary Kay Stephens and Nikki Barcomb

South Door Greeter: Judy Wilson

Offering: Chris Heider and Suzanne Galle

Friendship Pad Collector: Petra Peterson

Bag Brigade Volunteer: Nikki Barcomb

Birthdays in the Congregation

August 25

Jan Sheldon

Robert Mugridge

Sawyer Harding

August 26

Lucille Eggenberger

Peggy Southard

August 27

Jen Sullivan

August 28

Nina Nganga

August 29

Russ Heikes

Jeff Moore

Madilynn Walter

Kian Luckie

Deacon Family Groups - 2026

A-B Dorothy Devlin

Lf-Me Deborah Norwood

C-Di Lois Dutcher

Mf-N Becky May

Dj-F Sandy Groene

O-R Diana Schoneweis

G-Ha Melinda Fischer

S-Si Charles Tuttle

Hb-J Lucille Eggenberger

Sj-To Mary Parkinson

K-Le Linda Longino

Tj-Z Nikki Barcomb

Calendar

August 23

9:15 am

Children's Sunday School

9:15 am

Adult and Youth Sunday School

9:30 am

Summer Choir Rehearsal

10:30 am

Worship

August 24

9:00 am

First 5 Years Classes

1:15 pm

FPC Staff Meeting

2:00 pm

Pastor Helen's Class

6:00 pm

First 5 Years Board Meeting

August 25

9:00 am

First 5 Years Classes

August 26

9:00 am

First 5 Years Classes

6:00 pm

Boy Scout Troop 59 Meeting

August 27

9:00 am First 5 Years Classes
5:30 pm Worship Committee Meeting

August 28

9:00 am First 5 Years Classes
10:00 am Men's Group

August 29

8:30 am Boy Scout Leadership Training

August 30

9:15 am Children's Sunday School
9:15 am Adult and Youth Sunday School
10:30 am Worship
3:00 pm Back to School Bowling

Children Sunday School

• Sunday School Classes for Children

○ Our first theme is Welcome All

Welcome All is the way we are describing the faith practice of hospitality. It is the idea of being intentional and authentic as we offer a genuine welcome to all of God's people - both stranger and friend. When we are intentional about welcoming all, we are affirming the worth of all of God's people. A commitment to opening our hearts, our homes, our churches, and our capacity for friendship and community too, not only those who are like us, but also those who are different from us is at the very heart of the practice of hospitality. Nancy Hodges and Joan Golden will teach for August:

- 8/23 – Who's that Stranger? Luke 24:13-24
- 8/23 – That's Just My Style! Luke 10:38-42
- 8/30 - Welcome.....All? Luke 7:36-50

Adult and Youth Sunday School

- **Adult Classes on August 23** Jim Woelfel begins a series on *Varieties of Unbelief: Thomas Henry Huxley, George Eliot, Bertran Russell, Simone de Beauvoir*. The American philosopher William James entitled his classic study of religion *The Varieties of Religious Experience*. Over the centuries skepticism about and outright rejection of theistic beliefs have also been expressed in a variety of ways of thinking and sensibilities. In this series I will present four modern agnostic and atheistic thinkers and writers whose differences illustrate what I am calling the varieties of unbelief. Unbelief can range from brisk rejection and sharp criticism of Christianity and belief in God, at one end of the spectrum, to a deep sense of the mystery of human existence and a poignantly sympathetic appreciation of faith at the other.
- **On August 30 Mark Shiflett will lead a class called *Solar Panels for Beginners*.** Jim Woelfel's class will resume on September 6

Worship for August and September

We continue a sermon series on *Epic Meltdowns in the Bible and How God Responds*. It may help us in our own meltdown or meltdown arounds us to know that God Forgives, God Waits, God Humbles, God Protects, God Instructs and God Provides Help.

Pastor Helen's Monday Class will continue meeting on Mondays at 2 pm in the Fireside Room. We are studying the History of Religion in the United States. You are welcome to join us.

Handbell Ringers Needed!

The Westminster Ringers Handbell Choir is looking for new ringers for both treble and bass bells, beginning Monday, August 31. Rehearsals are held on Mondays, from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm. The group regularly participates in the 10:30 am worship service on the third Sunday of each month, September through May, with occasional additional services throughout the year.

Westminster Ringers will celebrate 50 years of ringing in 2027! If you would like to be part of this dynamic and fun group of musicians, contact director Carol Fleegeer at carolfleegeer@yahoo.com or 225-235-9285. We are looking forward to having YOU join us!

Roots of the Land, Food of the People In our ongoing effort to learn about and be allies to the Indigenous people in our community, on September 20 we have planned a worship service that focuses on celebrating the Indigenous connection to Kansas including communion with fry bread and then will continue with lunch in fellowship hall. This meal will be catered by Melissa Garret of Wadulisi's Contemporary Indigenous Foods to provide us with an authentic traditional meal. The lunch includes Melissa sharing stories of the importance of food and tradition in the indigenous community. You must purchase a ticket for this event. Tickets will be on sale in August. Tickets are limited. Cost is \$20 for one, \$40 for two, and \$50 for a family.

