



First Press

Weekly Newsletter

First Presbyterian Church

January 12, 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 create a 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.

Prayers

Cares, Concerns, and Celebrations

- Kerry McLay, daughter of Alois McLay, died December 29th. Services will be held later.
- FPC member Jan Erland died on December 29th. Services are pending.
- First 5 Years teacher, Lisa Marie Benke is asking for prayers for her husband.
- Michael Devlin is hospitalized at LMH and is now in rehab to regain strength.
- Bruce Humphreys, step-father of Robert Mugridge, is at Advent Medical Center in OP and asks for our prayers.
- Ruthanne Stucky, mother of Alisa Stucky, asks for our prayers of healing and strength as she continues her fight against cancer.
- Susan and Pat - dealing with health concerns.
- Kelly Grube is receiving chemo and being evaluated by Mayo Clinic.

- Jenny Skridulis Vellon, a former member of FPC, had breast cancer surgery recently. She will rest for a few weeks before starting radiation. Prayers welcome!
- Tim Dutcher, son of Lois and David Dutcher, had a kidney transplant. Tim is home! Recovery is going well.
- Nancy Brink, a friend of Lois and Dave Dutcher, asks for prayers as she copes with brain and lung cancer diagnosis.
- Tanja Rounds is dealing with a brain tumor. Prayers appreciated.
- George Crump is asking for prayers in support of his health and well-being.
- Linda Wilson, Carol Fleeger's sister-in-law, is healing following cancer surgery.
- Allison Clunn-McPlin and family, friends of Dave and Lois Dutcher. Allison was diagnosed with an aggressive form of ALS.
- Kristi McAlister, FPC member and daughter of Pat McAlister, who is facing some serious health challenges.
- Prayer for our pastor and church leaders, for those leading our community, our state, and our nation.
- Prayers for those facing surgery or treatments, living with addiction or mental health issues, and for the caregivers supporting them.

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

January 6	January 9
Mary Corman	Erin Derby
Sam Emert	January 10
January 7	Liz Cloutman
Eva Alley	January 11
January 9	Carl Locke
Lois Dutcher	January 12
Heather Soper	Eric Dyck

January 13
Sandy Groene

January 19
Lisa Ball

Sunday Helpers

Ushers: Vic and Dianne Sisk and Cherie Zelig
Greeters: Heather Soper
Securing the Offering: Mark Shiflett and Jan Roth
Friendship Pad Collector: Petra Peterson
Bag Brigade Volunteer:

Calendar

January 12

9:15 am Sunday School for Children
9:15 am Earth Care Forum
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Un-decorate the Sanctuary!

January 13

9:00 am First 5 Years Classes
1:15 pm Staff Meeting
2:00 pm Pastor Helen's Class
3:00 pm Finance Committee Meeting

6:00 pm
6:00 pm

Cub Scout Den Meeting – Schwaller
Westminster Ringers Rehearsal

January 14

9:00 am First 5 Years Classes
2:30 pm Matthew 25 Cohort Meeting
6:30 pm Session Meeting
7:00 pm Kaw Valley Fiber Guild Meeting

January 15

9:00 am First 5 Years Classes
7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 59 Meeting
7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

January 16

9:00 am First 5 Years Classes

January 17

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

January 19

9:15 am Earth Care Forum
9:15 am Sunday School for Children
10:30 am Worship:
11:30 am Youth Winter Retreat

Children and Youth – classes resume January 12th

• Sunday School Classes for Children and Youth

- Pre-K and Kindergarten – Room 9 – Joan Golden and Nancy Hodges
- 1st and 2nd Grades – Room 12 – Anne Emert and Nikki Barcomb
- 3rd – 5th Grades – Room 14 - Chris Heider and Linda Longino

Youth Activities

Friends, we have some wonderful plans for 6-12 grades. Please add to your calendars and invite your friends to join us.

• January

- MISSION, SERVICE, FUN and FOOD: Winter Youth Retreat – January 19th – 11:30am to 6 pm –



- February
 - MISSION: The youth group will lead the congregation in serving a meal at LINK February 1st.
 - MISSION: The Youth will lead in collections of canned food for the Souper Bowl of Caring Feb. 9th.

Adult Sunday School Classes

- **The Earth Care Forum** - Today January 12th “Reweaving Our Homes and Our Lives Back into the Web of Life” with Ken Sallman. The EcoTeam welcomes you and your friends at 9:15 am in Fellowship Hall.
 - **January 19** – Jennifer Delisle, Ph.D. on “Mapping our Natural Heritage: A Geographer's Perspective on the Rare Plants, Animals, and Ecosystems of Kansas”
- **Adult Offerings during the week**
 - **The Men’s Group** meets on Friday morning at 10:00 am in the Library. Contact Charles Tuttle for more information at cftuttle@gmail.com.
 - **Pastor Helen’s Monday Class** – We will resume on Monday, January 13th, and look at God Wrestling, Genesis 32 and 33. The class meets at 2:00 pm in the Fireside Room.

Dinners for 7 or 8 are re-grouping! New date for the potluck! This is your opportunity to sign up for the 2025 Groups. Choices include dinners in homes, lunch at church, lunch at restaurants, and dinner in restaurants. Sign up for the group or groups you are interested in joining on the sheets in the Narthex. There will be a potluck dinner after worship on January 26th in Fellowship Hall. Groups will gather to decide on at least the first meeting. If you are not able to attend the potluck, be sure to get your name on a list and we will include you in the group of your choice. Also, you can contact Jan Roth at jroth@ku.edu or the church office 785-843-4171 by January 19th.

Looking for a good book to start the new year? Presbytery of Northern Kansas is offering an online book club beginning January 19. They are reading the book, *Words of Love* by Eugenia Gamble. There will be several groups and times to pick from to suit your schedule. Watch the PNK website for more information. www.pnks.org.



LINK – We are getting ready to serve at LINK again this February 1st. Sign ups are open and on the table in the Narthex. We need servers and food items. We are hosting a Taco Bar for lunch. We will need: soft taco / street taco tortillas, black beans,

shredded lettuce, mild salsa, shredded cheese, milk, tortilla chips, fruit, sour cream, and dessert. Pick one or many, but sign up today in the Narthex. This is an opportunity for everyone who wants to have a hands-on experience and for those who prefer to provide items for service. Help as you can and the hungry are fed!

Love Fund – In December we provided over \$700 in assistance to five families in need. We assisted with rent and utility costs. Thank you for considering a gift to the Deacon Love Fund today or sometime this month. Your gifts stay local and assist people we might know. Everyone deserves a hand up from time to time. Your generosity is appreciated.

How can you participate in the life of the church? Here are some ideas:

- Sign up to be the Liturgist on a Sunday morning. Ability to read slowly and clearly.
- Serve on a Committee or Task Force
- Memorial Services
 - Help serve, set-up, clean-up
 - Make cookies or brownies
 - Usher
- Are you an “inactive” Elder or Deacon? Sign up to serve Communion
- Serve as an usher or greeter on Sunday mornings – need help at all doors!
- Work with the A/V team. We are hoping to expand this team – no experience necessary – they will teach you!
- Offer your gifts in ways not listed – we are open and willing to try something new – are you?



Earth Care Forum Series - 2025
Sundays, January 5 – February 2, 9:15 - 10:15 am
Recordings can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/@firstpreslawrence2258/playlists>
First Presbyterian Church, 2415 Clinton Parkway
(Fellowship Hall)



January 5: "What is Biodiversity, How Do We Measure It... Why Do We Care?"

Presenter: Hank Guarisco: Guarisco was assistant curator of arachnids at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science. He was also a research associate of the Florida State Collection of Arthropods. As a biologist he has done fieldwork for the Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks and the Kansas Biological Survey. Guarisco has a master's degree in Systematics and Ecology from KU. He has also done fieldwork for the Kansas Department of Wildlife/Parks and Kansas Biological Survey.

Description: After an introduction outlining the topic, a film by David Korten: "For the Love of Life, Finding Our Way to An Ecological Civilization" will be discussed. Korten is an author, former professor of the [Harvard Business School](#), [political activist](#), prominent critic of [corporate globalization](#), and "by training and inclination a student of psychology and behavioral systems". Korten is co-founder and board chair of the [Positive Futures Network](#), which publishes the quarterly [YES! Magazine](#).

January 12: Reweaving Our Homes and Our Lives Back into the Web of Life

Presenter: Ken Lassman, author of *Seasons and Cycles: Rhythms of Life in the Kansas River Watershed* (1985), *Wild Douglas County* (2007), and curator of the Kaw Valley Almanac, a weekly nature calendar.

Description: Many of us are striving to reduce the impacts of humanity on the earth's ecosystems, but also finding ways to rejoin our lives into those ecosystems. What would it take to rejoin the many-species web of life that permeates the earth, by living in ways that nurture that web? One step is to regain ecological literacy of the place where we live by knowing the dynamic cycles of life that make this place unlike any other place on the planet. The catalyzing combination of climate change and biodiversity degradation increases the importance of this fun process: reconnecting our home and ourselves to the Earth. If you don't know what the cycles are, how do you know when they change?

January 19: Mapping our Natural Heritage: A Geographer's Perspective on the Rare Plants, Animals, and Ecosystems of Kansas

Presenter: Jennifer Delisle, Ph.D., Associate Researcher, Kansas Biological Survey & Center for Ecological Research

Description: Stewardship of our natural world begins with knowing what is here and precisely where it is found. The Kansas Natural Heritage Inventory has been compiling information about the status and location of the state's most threatened species and ecosystems for nearly 40 years. I'll illustrate some of the state's lesser-known rare species and show how maps of biodiversity data are being used for conservation work at the local, state, and national levels.

January 26: Opportunities and Challenges for Monarch Conservation

Presenter: Kristen Baum, Director of Monarch Watch: Kristen is Senior Scientist with the Kansas Biological Survey and Professor in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Kansas. Baum has worked with pollinators for more than thirty years. She has served on numerous state, regional, national, and international working groups to support monarch and pollinator conservation efforts.

Description: Monarch butterflies have exhibited substantial population declines in recent years. The US Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed listing the monarch as threatened with a 4(d) rule under the Endangered Species Act. Learn about the status of monarchs, factors that have contributed to the decline, details about the USFWS proposal, and ways to support monarch conservation.

February 2: Gardening to Support Insects: Native Plants Matter, But Don't Rip Out Your Peonies

Presenter: Sharon Ashworth, Ph.D., serves as the Horticulture and Natural Resources Agent for Douglas County. Her work with Extension began as a volunteer with the Extension Master Gardeners after transitioning from academia to a book, "Wading Right In - Discovering the Nature of Wetlands" (2019)

Description: Whether it's diagnosing plant problems, recommending suitable plants for landscapes, or advising on rural acreage care—from ponds to prairies— Sharon applies scientific knowledge to help people create sustainable and beautiful landscapes.

Since 2015, the EcoTeam of First Presbyterian Church has coordinated presentations by well-informed individuals addressing earth care concerns which are open to church members and the general public. The church is recognized by the Presbyterian denomination as an Earth Care Congregation and is also a member of Lawrence Ecology Teams United in Sustainability (An interfaith network of green teams related to the following faith traditions: Muslim, Jewish, Catholic, Protestant, Unitarian Universalist, Zen Buddhist).