



# First Press

*Weekly Newsletter*

May 17, 2026

First Presbyterian Church

## 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.

## 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 [linda@firstpreslawrence.org](mailto: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 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.

## Children Sunday School

### • Sunday School Classes for Children

- May 17 is our last day of Sunday School this year. We will be making gifts for our friends at Presbyterian Manor as well as working in the Community Garden. We will harvest the radish crop, and we will plant Swiss Chard, which should grow throughout the summer. We will be using a sub-surface watering system to save water and reduce the watering chore.
- Kick-off for fall classes will be on August 9<sup>th</sup> so mark your calendars so you don't miss out!

## Adult and Youth Sunday School

- On Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> all youth and adults are invited to the Fireside Room to discuss some options for class moving forward. We are especially interested in what parts of the Bible are challenging for you or maybe even exciting. What would you like to know more about – perhaps the context of the scripture or just questions you have. Bring your ideas, questions, challenges, and favorites to share!

## Youth Activities

- **Eco Team and Youth on an EcoTrek!** All FPC Youth and Friends are invited to join the EcoTeam on Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. Meet at the church at 5:00 pm to carpool to the Rockefeller Trail. There are a couple of apps you might want to download to use on the hike – Seek and iNaturalist. You

can use them to identify nature you discover along the way. What a great way to use technology! Call Kelly for more information at 785-979-2713.

- **Serving at LINK** – We are cooking and serving a meal at LINK on Saturday, May 23. Meet at LINK (First Christian Church at 10<sup>th</sup> and Kentucky) at 11:30 am to help. Youth age 13 and older can serve without an adult present. There is a sign up sheet to provide ingredients for Tacos in
- For our next project we will be looking for single serving snacks to share with the guests of the Homeless Resource Center AND new or gently used adult sized socks for the Lawrence Community Shelter. Questions? Call Kelly Grube at 785-979-2713.
- **Be sure to mark your calendar for the End of Year Youth Picnic** on Sunday, May 24 at 4 pm at South Park. See you there!

**Pastor Helen's Monday Class** is meeting on Mondays at 2 pm in the Fireside Room. We are currently studying the history of religion in the US. This is a class Helen taught at Northeastern Oklahoma A & M college. We will survey the history of religion in America and its impact on social reform, politics and intellectual life. It will offer an opportunity to study the religions of the world and the influence faith and religion have exercised in American history. Everyone is welcome!

**Grieving Together** A group for those who are working through the loss of a loved one will meet on Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am in the Library.

**Celebrating all of our Graduates!** We send special congratulations to:



**Joshua Vincent** will graduate from KU in May with his bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering. *"I wish I could say it was easy, but completing this program in four years is probably going to go down as the hardest thing I will ever achieve. After I graduate, I will take a break from school and go straight to the industry in the Washington DC area. I am so thankful for this church community that has introduced me to so many kind and interesting people, gave me spiritual guidance, and most importantly, fed me. Thank you all so much. Rock Chalk!"* Joshua

**Maggie Ziegler** will graduate from University of Kansas Medical School as a Medical Doctor. She will be doing her residency for the next three years at Harvard's Boston Children's Hospital to become a pediatrician. Maggie is a child and member of FPC, daughter of Brad and Debby Ziegler and granddaughter of Jan Roth.

**We are looking for volunteers** to help on a Sunday morning from time to time as **ushers and greeters**. Plan to arrive a bit early, help folks who might be unfamiliar with our building find their way around, greet everyone, hand out bulletins, help find nametags, assist with seating, take a "head count" for the office staff, and meet some wonderful folks! If you can help please **sign up on the sheets in the Narthex**. Thank you.

**We need one or two people to join our Sound Board team!** Our current people are fabulous, but sometimes they need a day off or they want to participate in worship and the life of the church in other ways. If we have several folks who can run the board, then we can spread out the responsibility. Let's not let our online friends down – we have about 40 who are regular attenders online – and step up to learn something new! Please talk to the folks at the board about getting some training. It takes all of us to make this happen! Thank you so much!



**The pollinator garden is now full of plants** ready to grow and attract pollinators. Look for a full blooming garden in July and August. Thanks to everyone who came out to help with the planting!



**Just Food is hosting a Gala** to celebrate the work that has been done to make sure everyone in Douglas County has nutritious food as well as raising critical funds to sustain and expand this work. If you agree that providing nutritious food for everyone – especially those who are unable to afford it – consider attending **"A Night in the Caribbean"** on June 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm at the Oread Hotel. Tickets are available at [www.justfoodks.org](http://www.justfoodks.org) or call 785-856-7030.



## Adult Volunteer Work Trip

The **PNKS Mission Ministry Team** is excited to announce the location and details for the **Summer 2026 Adult Volunteer Work Trip**. We will again be traveling with members of the Presbytery of Southern Kansas as well as working with Fuller Center for Housing/Disaster ReBuilders (a partner of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance). We only have 12 spots available this year. This year we will travel to Madisonville, KY to help with home rebuilding and repairs after F1 tornadoes struck the area in both 2021 and 2025. The trip cost is \$600, with a \$200 scholarship from PNKS. We ask that local churches consider also contributing 1/3 of the cost. More information can be found on the Presbytery of Northern Kansas website at [www.pnks.org](http://www.pnks.org).



**Join the Parade on June 6<sup>th</sup>!** The Lawrence Pride Parade is right around the corner. Join us as we gather at 11 am on Saturday, June 6 for a joyous walk down Mass Street. Wear your old pride shirt or purchase the new FPC T-shirt. We also have a few free shirts from previous pride events. Stop by the table in the Narthex to sign up today!

**This Sunday is the last chance to Preorder your FPC T-Shirt!** We will begin using one all-purpose t-shirt to wear whenever we attend community and FPC events. The shirt lets folks know who we are, what we stand for, and helps us spread the word about our vibrant congregations. **Visit the Matthew 25 table** in the narthex this Sunday to view the new shirt design and preorder your size. We will turn in the order on Monday the 18<sup>th</sup> to ensure shirts are available by the Pride Parade. If you want to preorder a shirt, but won't be in Church Sunday contact Mary Warren at [themarywarren@gmail.com](mailto:themarywarren@gmail.com) to reserve your size. A suggested \$20 donation per shirt to replenish the Mission budget is appreciated.



## HAVE YOU PAID YOUR PER CAPITA YET?

One of the features of the PCUSA is the per capita (Latin for "per head") contribution. Currently at \$42, it's an annual amount that helps fund the General Assembly office in Louisville, the Synod of Mid-America in Kansas City, and the Presbytery of Northern Kansas in Salina. While the church's budget contains a line item to pay each member's per capita, when individuals make a separate donation, it frees up money for other purposes such as the Deacon's fund, mission donations or improvements to the church's building. Please consider paying yours today!



### Family Promise News

Happy Spring to everyone! What great weather for walking or running before it gets too hot! The **Family Promise 5K Home Run** is scheduled for Monday, May 25th at 8:30am starting in South Park! Virtual participants can walk or run anytime from May 19-25!

**Cheers for our FPC team** for the Family Promise 5K Home Run!! We have 19 participants from FPC!! So proud of this great team!! Team members are:

Eva Alley, Leann Gross, Heather Soper, Mary Warren, Margie Dyck, Robert Mugridge, Jerry Chandler, Larry Flottman, Vicki Sisk, Dianne Sisk, Linda Watts, Diana Schoneweis, Mark Schoneweis, Grace Ngang, Nina Nganga, Jim Woelfel, Sandy Groene, Helen Hutchison, and Lois Dutcher.

Thank you to those from FPC who have given dollars to support our team!! So far, FPC has given \$650 additional funds for Family Promise to support our team. There is always time for more participants and more monetary support! May God bless you all!

Lois Dutcher FP coordinator

**5K HOME RUN**  
MONDAY 5.25.26  
@ SOUTH PARK IN LAWRENCE

Family Promise of Lawrence

5K Home Run  
Benefiting Family Promise 2026

HELP US RAISE FUNDS TO CONTINUE TO WALK ALONGSIDE AND EMPOWER FAMILIES EXPERIENCING A HOUSING CRISIS. ONE OF OUR BIGGER SPRING FUNDRAISING EFFORTS. HOPE TO SEE YOU!

\$30 per person      \$25 Team of 4+ (save \$5)

RUN/WALK IN PERSON OR VIRTUAL      VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES      STROLLERS + LEASHED PETS ALLOWED

**June 7 at 11:30 am is our Annual FPC Picnic!** The Fellowship Committee is hosting and will provide the fried chicken and beverages. They ask that we bring a side dish or dessert to serve about 12. We might have some entertainment – still working out the details. Get the date on your calendar for a fun lunch after church on June 7!

**A Celebration of Music** - On Saturday, June 13 at 1:30 PM, we will be hosting an afternoon of music for our friends at Presbyterian Manor! We are looking for musicians who would be willing to play an instrument (solo or with others) for the residents. Performances would only need to be about 5 to 10 minutes long. You can sign up in the Narthex starting this Sunday or notify Claire via email at [claire@firstpreslawrence.org](mailto:claire@firstpreslawrence.org). Ask Claire for more details.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PRESENTS

*A Celebration of Music at Presbyterian Manor*

Sign up to help us host an afternoon of musical performances for our friends at the Manor.

Saturday, June 13  
1:30 PM  
Presbyterian Manor Chapel

**CROP Walk is coming up in October!**

**LAWRENCE CROP HUNGER WALK**

OCTOBER 4, 2026  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REGISTER BELOW AND HELP US REACH OUR FUNDRAISING GOAL OF \$3,000!

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/chw/event/lawrencecks>