

First Press

*Weekly Newsletter*

First Presbyterian Church dealing with surch

April 21, 2024

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**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.

**Prayers**

*Cares, Concerns, and Celebrations*

* Loren Dolezal is in St. Luke’s Plaza Hospital following surgery.
* Steve Rauch, father of Holly Oertel, suffered a heart attack while the family was in Tulsa, OK. He is waiting for more information and probable surgery.
* Barbara Knops, daughter of DeeDee and Guy Dresser, had lung surgery this week. Prayers that it went well and healing has started.
* We celebrate with Djifa Gavi and Joel that their husband and father, Kassenge Soklou has been cleared to travel to the United States. Update: Kassenge is scheduled to arrive in mid-May! Prayers for safe travel.
* 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.
* 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.

**Birthdays in the Congregation**

April 23 April 25

 Linda Watts Bowen Savage

 Melinda Fischer April 27

 Katie Luckie Joan Golden

 Rose Ekpon

**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

**Sunday Helpers**

Ushers: Larry Flottman, Charles and Jennifer Tuttle

Greeters: Linda Burton and Sandy Groene

Securing the Offering: Melinda Fischer and Jan Roth

Friendship Pad Collector: Petra Peterson

Mugger: Julie Simon

**Calendar**

 April 21

 9:00 am Sunday Nursery Open

 9:15 am Children and Youth Sunday School

 9:15 am Judeo-Christian Themes in Musical

 Theater

 10:30 am Worship

 11:30 am Presby Pickers Rehearsal

 April 22

 9:00 am First 5 Years Classes

 12:30 pm Lunch for 7 or 8 at Perkins

 1:15 pm Staff Meeting

 2:00 pm Lemon Tree class

 6:00 pm Pack 3059 Den Schwaller

 6:00 pm Westminster Ringers Rehearsal

 7:00 pm First 5 Years Board Meeting

 April 23

 9:00 am First 5 Years Classes

 1:00 pm Small World Classes

 6:00 pm Worship Committee Meeting

 April 24

 9:00 am First 5 Years Classes

 7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 59 Meeting

 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

 April 25

 9:00 am First 5 Years Classes

 1:00 pm Small World Classes

 April 26

 9:00 am First 5 Years Classes

 10:00 am Men’s Group

 April 27

 10:00 am Session Retreat at Lawrence Public

 Library

 April 28

 9:00 am Sunday Nursery Open

 9:15 am Children and Youth Sunday School

 9:15 am Judeo-Christian Themes in Musical

 Theater

 10:30 am Worship

 11:30 am Presby Pickers Rehearsal

 11:30 am Youth Lunch

 12:45 pm Youth to KU Baseball Game

**Children and Youth**

* We are excited to welcome all children to our Sunday School classes and all events. On Sunday mornings all the children will 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!
* Youth Group on April 28 is a KU Baseball Game! KU offered tickets and we accepted. Come cheer for the Jayhawks vs. Texas Tech. We will have lunch at the church and then head to KU for the 1:00 pm game.

**Adult Sunday School Classes**

* **Join Paul Laird who is teaching a Sunday School class entitled "Judeo-Christian Themes in Musical Theater"**. Meeting through May 5, we will consider the following shows: *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Joseph, Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Godspell*, and *Children of Eden*. Please come and see how Broadway creators have dealt with some of the important stories of our faith.

**Adult Offerings coming up soon**

* **Pastor Helen’s Class meets on Mondays at 2:00 pm in the Fireside Room**

She is using the book, “Lemon Tree” by Sandy Tolan. This story provides a good foundation of the centuries long conflict between the Israelis and Palestinians and shows how understanding can bring hope and transformation in the Middle East.

* **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

**Welcome Committee**

**Let’s Get Together!** If you are new to First Presbyterian Church and would like an opportunity to meet Pastor Helen and learn a little more about our church and ministries, please join us today at 11:30 am in the Library which is to your right as you exit the Sanctuary. We will have some treats for you and look forward to meeting you!

**“Lunch” for 7 or 8 or more!** One of our meal groups has chosen to meet at Perkins on the 4th Monday of the month (April 22) at 12:30 pm. They have reserved the private room in the restaurant and have plenty of room for the “more”! You are invited to join them for lunch and an opportunity to get to know others in the congregation. No RSVP needed.

**Congratulations to Taylor Zickefoose** for her selection from a pool of 600 songwriters as a winner of the highly esteemed Bob Dylan Center Songwriter Fellowship program, established to honor the legendary musician’s enduring legacy and support emerging songwriters. It is renowned for its rigorous selection process and its commitment to nurturing the next generation of musical storytellers. What a fabulous opportunity! Congratulations Taylor!

**We are invited to the final concert of the KU Instrumental Collegium Musicum,** directed by Paul Laird. It will include music from the Renaissance, Baroque, and Classic eras and take place on Sunday, April 21, at 7:30 pm in Swarthout Recital Hall at Murphy Hall. The concert is free.

**Synod School of Lakes and Prairies – July 21-26** at Buena Vista University, Storm Lake, IA. 78 classes to choose from and there is something for everyone – all ages. Check out this website for lots of information! <https://www.lakesandprairies.org/engaging-leaders/synod-school>. If you need more information from someone who has attended, contact Kathryn Roblee at kathrynroblee@gmail.com

**There are several open dates** for you to provide the flowers for worship on Sunday morning. Your contribution adds God’s and Mother Nature’s beauty to the sanctuary to remind us of the beauty in our world. Sign up on the sheet across from the Church Office.

**Your prayers of support are encouraged** for our members of Session and Pastor Helen as they attend a retreat on Saturday, April 2. They will be looking at how to be the church together moving into our future. There are a lot of exciting and interesting possibilities and together we can make them happen. How can you be a part of the ministries of FPC? What would you like to see happen soon and how can you help? Leadership needs followers too!

**News from the Mission Committee**

**Matthew 25**

Medicaid Expansion

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

Many thanks to all of you who wrote your legislators and advocated for expanding Medicaid. Time is running out in the legislative session and looks as though our efforts to get a vote on the bill will not happen. But we did succeed in letting Christ work through us to stand up and fight for compassion for our neighbors. For now, we can be satisfied with that. We will be back next year.

**Justice Matters Updates:**

* You are invited to the Action Assembly Sunday, April 28, 3-4:30 pm at the Lied Center. There is no charge, but you will need a ticket to attend. Please check at the Narthex table for tickets.
* The Action Assembly is a way to come together for justice as a community. Your participation matters and is needed as a part of our community.  Bring a friend, your family, a neighbor, your children!
* There will be updates from our initiatives:
	+ Drafting the "A Place for Everyone" plan to end chronic homelessness.
	+ Increasing staffing for quality care for our senior citizens.
* Remember what we have accomplished:
	+ The Affordable Housing Trust Fund with over 800 units created to date.
	+ No jail expansion while pushing for Criminal Justice Reform.
	+ The Mental Health Treatment and Recovery Center was built and is operational.
	+ Restorative Practice Teams in every school AND there is a three-year funding source.

**The EcoTeam of First Presbyterian Church** invites you to attend an EcoTrek, Sunday, May 5, beginning at 4:00 at the Nature Park Center Prairie. Ken Lassman will be our "guide".  He is the author of *Seasons and Cycles: Rhythms of Life in the Kansas River Basin* in 1985, *Wild Douglas County* in 2007*,* and curator of [www.kawvalleyalmanac.com](http://www.kawvalleyalmanac.com/). He posts weekly in the Lawrence Times nature updates. This is a "family friendly" trek. Also, if interested, bring a snack to eat at the end of our trek.

