



# First Press

Weekly Newsletter

First Presbyterian Church

May 12, 2024

## 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 [firstpreslawrence@gmail.com](mailto:firstpreslawrence@gmail.com)** letting us know you joined us in worship. We look forward to getting to know you.

## Prayers

### Cares, Concerns, and Celebrations

- **Jean Givens** is home following hospitalization for life threatening high fever and infection. She is receiving daily treatment and care. Her daughter is with her now.
- **Loren Dolezal** is now at Select Specialty Hospital KC. He will be there for about three weeks and then plans are to move to a rehabilitation hospital. Prayers for strength and patience.
- **Kathryn Roblee** will have knee replacement surgery on Monday, May 13.
- **Parents of Nora Wallace**. Her father is hospitalized and her mother and sister are trying to care for him as well as cope with their own health issues.
- **Tom Groene** is now living at Bridgehaven.
- **Steve Rauch, father of Holly Oertel**, is home and recovering from a heart attack while the family was in Tulsa, OK. We are grateful!

- 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.
- **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

May 13

Kaprelle Bradley

May 14

Leah Pringle

Shane Hofer

Zachary Clancy

May 18

Paxton Christenson

May 19

Rich Givens

Henry Johns

Bob Longino

Tricia Judd

## 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:** Martha Rose, Vic & Dianne Sisk, & Cherie Elo

**Greeters:** Dorothy Devlin

**Securing the Offering:** We need volunteers please!

**Friendship Pad Collector:** Petra Peterson

**Mugger:** Linda Longino

**Flowers today** are in memory of Beverly S. McDonald and Brian J. Kelly, provided by bobbie frances mcdonald.

## Calendar

### May 12

- 9:00 am Sunday Nursery Open
- 9:15 am Children and Youth Sunday School
- 9:15 am Coffee House with Presby Pickers
- 10:30 am Worship

### May 13

- 1:15 pm Staff Meeting
- 2:00 pm Lemon Tree Class with Helen
- 6:00 pm Westminster Ringers Rehearsal
- 7:00 pm First 5 Years Board Meeting

### May 14

- 10:00 am Meeting with First 5 Years Teachers
- 12:00 pm Farewell Luncheon for Jennifer Jones
- 6:00 pm Kaw Valley Fiber Guild Meeting
- 6:30 pm Session Meeting

### May 15

- 1:30 pm PW Martha Circle

- 5:00 pm Personnel Committee Meeting
- 6:15 pm Daisy Troop Meeting
- 7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 59 Meeting
- 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### May 17

- 10:00 am Men's Group

### May 18

- 8:30 am Boy Scout Den Leader Training
- 6:00 pm Music Members End of Year Party

### May 19

- 9:00 am Sunday Nursery Open
- 9:15 am Children and Youth Sunday School
- 9:15 am Fellowship Time
- 10:30 am Worship
- 11:30 am Lunch for 7 or 8
- 12:30 pm Evan Flynn Violin Studio Recital
- 1:30 pm Boy Scout Den Leader Training
- 5:30 pm Youth End of Year Party

## 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!

## Adult Sunday School Classes

- Today, May 12<sup>th</sup> we present the Presby Pickers!** Make your way to the Chapel around 9:30 am and listen to some music by a group of FPC family and friends sharing their musical talent. It is a new kind of fellowship time!

## 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. This week read the Introduction and Chapters 5, 6 and 7 for class.
- 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](mailto:cftuttle@gmail.com)

**Lawrence Community Handbell Choir presents Music from the Pale Blue Dot** – Concerts will be held on Friday, May 17, 7 pm, at Susanna Wesley United Methodist Church in Topeka; Saturday, May 18, 7 pm, at Lawrence First Church of the Nazarene; and Sunday, May 19, 3 pm, at First United Methodist Church of Lawrence.



**Save the Date for the PW Rummage Sale in August!** Presbyterian Women will hold their Rummage Sale on August 16 and 17. They will be collecting your items August 12 – 15 in Fellowship Hall. Funds from the sale will be used for updating Fellowship Hall. Thank you for your support!

## Welcome Committee

**Lunch for 7/8 or more!** You are invited to join this group for a pot-luck lunch on May 19<sup>th</sup> immediately after worship. Bring something to share and join the conversation and fellowship. Come and meet a new friend in the church family.

## News from the Mission Committee

### Special Offerings of PCUSA

May 19 is the Day of Pentecost which marks the beginning of the Christian church with a blessing of the holy spirit. Our Pentecost Offering is an effort to unite us in support of young people sharing their faith, ideas, and gifts with the Church and the world. We will receive this offering on May 19<sup>th</sup>. Forty percent of your gift will stay with our congregation to support ministries with children, youth and young adults, 25% supports young adult volunteers, 25% supports ministries with youth and 10% is devoted to children at-risk. Together we can offer a great deal of support to our young people. Please consider a gift to this offering.

### Matthew 25

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

### Save the Date!

**Lawrence Pride Parade June 1, 2024**

**Noon \*\* Downtown Lawrence**

Again, this year we will don our *Presbyterians for Pride* t-shirts and join the joyous parade down Mass Street to show love and support for our LBGQTQ+ members and neighbors. We invite you to mark your calendars and join us! We will have a table in the narthex on Sundays June 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> Stop by to sign up to walk and pick up a custom designed Presbyterian for Pride t-shirt for just \$10.



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

### Gratitude for Efforts to Expand Medicaid

Last week's newsletter on Medicaid Expansion included a request to contact the Republican legislators who voted with Democrats to move the Senate bill on Medicaid expansion-SB355-out of committee for a debate on the Senate floor. If you haven't yet contacted these legislators, please consider doing it this week. I sent emails on Sunday afternoon. I kept my message simple, recognizing that they had done a hard thing putting the needs of our neighbors over party affiliation and thanking them for this and for their service to Kansas. Within an hour, four Republican senators had responded to my emails thanking me for recognizing their efforts. I realized that our legislators, whether we agree with them or not, volunteered to serve us and they are trying to do their best. It is a tough job, and they deserve our gratitude.

Here's the list of Republican Senators who voted to move the bill out committee. If you would like a list with active links so you can quickly click and send your email, contact me at [themarywarren@gmail.com](mailto:themarywarren@gmail.com) and I will send you a list with active links.

R- [Rick.Billinger@senate.ks.gov](mailto:Rick.Billinger@senate.ks.gov)

R- [Elaine.Bowers@senate.ks.gov](mailto:Elaine.Bowers@senate.ks.gov)

R- [Ethan.Corson@senate.ks.gov](mailto:Ethan.Corson@senate.ks.gov)

R- [Brenda.Dietrich@senate.ks.gov](mailto:Brenda.Dietrich@senate.ks.gov)

R- [John.Doll@senate.ks.gov](mailto:John.Doll@senate.ks.gov)

R- [Carolyn.McGinn@senate.ks.gov](mailto:Carolyn.McGinn@senate.ks.gov)

R- [Rob.Olson@senate.ks.gov](mailto:Rob.Olson@senate.ks.gov)

R- [Kristen.OShea@senate.ks.gov](mailto:Kristen.OShea@senate.ks.gov)

### Family Promise of Lawrence

We at FPC have just completed our host week with Connect Church for Family Promise. Twenty volunteers provided food, gift cards, and hospitality to the families at Grace House and to those in other programs. Thank you to those who helped and to our FPC Youth Group who baked cookies and brownies for these families. Everything is very much appreciated!!! Thank you for all of the support and compassion for the families in Family Promise from our FPC congregation. Our next host week is July 7th - 13th. In the meantime, we are forming an **FPC Run/Walk team for the Family Promise 5K Home Run on Memorial Day, May 27th**. Team members can participate in three different ways: 1) Walk/Run with other Walkers/Runners on May 27th, at South Park; 2) run/walk on your own -- or with a friend or family member sometime the week prior to May 27th; 3) walk with a group on Sunday afternoon, the 26th.



Someone will be in the Narthex on April 28th -- and on succeeding Sundays -- to sign-up those wanting to join our team. That person will also receive financial donations from the congregation on those Sundays. Last year we had 13 members on our team and significant financial support from the general congregation! WE HOPE TO HAVE A TEAM OF 15+ PEOPLE THIS YEAR! Look for us in the Narthex and get on the TEAM or leave a donation to show your support! GO FPC! Lois Dutcher, coordinator

## Justice Matters Action Assembly

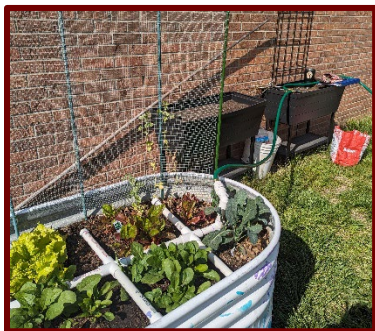
The Assembly was attended by over 500 individuals from Douglas County and served as a powerful demonstration of solidarity in support of evidence-based solutions to the critical challenges facing our community. One highlight was the resounding support from Gina Coffman, Executive Director of Heartland Workforce Development for the implementation of Dwyer's program to address the shortage of staff needed to care for the elderly and aging in our community. City and County Commissioners made commitments to advance the "A Place for Everyone" strategic plan to work toward functional zero homelessness by 2028.

## The EcoTeam Pollinator Garden

May is the month for planting the pollinator garden located in the southeast corner of FPC. If you are interested in learning more about attracting Monarchs and other pollinators to your lawn and garden, join the EcoTeam in planting on Saturday, May 11 at 9:30 am. Plants will be purchased from Monarch Watch (<https://monarchwatch.org/openhouse/>) during their annual fundraiser. A variety of plants are needed to attract and maintain a habitat for pollinators. As an Earth Care Congregation, FPC has maintained our garden for over 10 years with hopes that the Monarch population might benefit from these efforts. Bring a trowel, if you have one, along with your sunscreen and water and help us open FPC's pollinator garden. Bring a friend too!

## The FPC Community Garden

The goal of the garden this year is to donate all of our produce to Just Food since we are testing our capabilities. We have a limited footprint, so we are trying to maximize our harvest. As we progress, we want to make space for our neighbors to garden. Recently we harvested and donated four pounds of lettuce, spinach, chard, kale, and arugula. There are still plants growing, which we will replace with the summer plants. We are using the Square Foot Garden plan to maximize our produce. We are using an irrigation grid to make watering more uniform and easy.



## Summer Sermon Series



**National Parks** are the topics each Sunday. Helen will talk about sharing, caring for, and the gifts of many of our National Parks. Yellowstone was the first established national park and a great place to start the series on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. She will include in the weeks following Denali, Great Basin, Zion, White Sands, Mount Rainier, Grand Canyon and Redwood National Parks. Have you visited any of them? Did you have a moment of awe? Or maybe more than one? Come find out what we can learn about these gifts from God and what their messages to us might be if we just pay attention.



## Synod School 2024



July 21-26, 2024  
Brescia Vista University  
Storm Lake, Iowa

Each of you is encouraged to be informed about a remarkable annual experience to help participants grow in discipleship to Jesus Christ. You may pick up a Synod School booklet from a table in the narthex, take it home, look it over, and bring it back. Synod School takes place at an accessible college campus with meals for every taste and every special diet; golf cart chauffeurs for folks with mobility problems; nursery care for children under 3; and education for everyone 3--93 yrs old. Perhaps you or others may want to participate July 21-26 this year (or next year).

*To him who by the power at work within s is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21 (NRSV)*

**The Clerks Minute - May 2024** The Session held a special retreat to review and discuss a number of items important to the life of FPC. Members were asked to list the things we do well at FPC and the things we might improve on. As you can imagine a lot of topics came up, from small things to very complex challenges. Much of the discussion came from a continued review of the Vision 2020 committee report that was put together following the Holy Cow Survey that you may recall from before COVID.

Solar Power was revisited due to additional information being presented following the recognition of FPC as a historic structure, because of its unique architecture. The location of solar panels on campus will be affected by the historic designation. Once the information is ready, a congregation meeting will be called to consider the project.

The Session also approved a new job description for the pre-school director position. Session also reflected on the years of dedication given by Jennifer Jones to the pre-school in her time as director.

Pastor Helen reported that attendance at FPC has been up during the weeks of the Easter Season as is the viewership on YouTube. It is a blessing to have so many sharing in worship at FPC.

I hope this is informative and helpful for you all.

Peace, Henry Johns - Clerk of Session

## Presbytery of Northern Kansas

The Presbytery meeting was held on April 30 at First Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis, KS. Pastor Helen led worship and served communion with CLP Adrain Hunley. The speaker of the day was Rev. Catherine Neelly Burton, Mission and Ministry Connector, Presbytery of Southern Kansas, presenting a program entitled: "Realities and Opportunities for Frontier and Rural Churches (and All of Us)." Also, learned of the death of Rev. FrankLyn Schroeder, HR on April 29. Detailed reports can be accessed at [www.pnks.org](http://www.pnks.org).

## Finance

	Budget	Actual
Gifts – April	\$36,000.00	\$22,707.00
Gifts – 2024 – YTD	\$201,407.00	\$200,602.00

Thank you for your continued support of our work and ministry together. It is never too late to make a pledge or gift to First Presbyterian Church! Go to Online Giving at [www.firstpreslawrence.org](http://www.firstpreslawrence.org).

## Fellowship



**The Annual All Church Picnic will be June 2!** The Fellowship Committee is planning a gathering for all the church family and friends on Sunday, June 2 after worship. They will provide chicken and beverages and ask us to bring side dishes and desserts to share. **A-S bring side dishes and T-Z bring desserts.** Mark your calendar now and plan to kick-off the summer season with us at the Picnic! This is a wonderful opportunity to invite a friend to join you!

**First 5 Years** completes another successful year of preparing our youngest friends for school and being in our world. We can learn a lot from them! Here are some pictures from the recent Art Fair.



# Calendar & Info for Sunday School

Children ages Pre-K through 5th grade & Youth SS Class

May  
19

## Final Sunday School Class Teacher Recognition

# Calendar & Info for Youth Group

Youth ages 6th grade - 12th grade

May  
19

## Youth Group End of Year Bash 5:30pm-7:00pm



The Youth of FPC  
and our volunteers  
enjoyed a fun (but  
rainy!) day at the  
ballpark last  
Sunday!

Rock Chalk!