

First Presbyterian Church

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Dr. Helen Hutchison, Pastor

Linda Maxey, liturgist

November 15, 2026

Prelude Andrew Morris, organist

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.

Introit *We Gather Together* Westminster Ringers

FRANCES L. CALLAHAN, arr. Carol Fleeger, director

Call To Worship

One: God says, come and see. Come and grow, for each day explodes in wonder.

All: A toddler takes some first steps; a child discovers a new world in the pages of a book; a youth grasps an insight, holds a friend, stands up for a cause.

One: A new skill learned gives hope; a new recipe brings hearty gratitude; a memory of a parent's care brings a second blessing.

All: God says, open your eyes to wonder, take my words to heart and learn to treasure all of life.

* **Hymn of Praise** *The God of Abraham Praise* ***Glory to God*** #49

LEONI

* **Call To Confession** Linda Maxey, liturgist

One: So often, in the midst of demanding schedules or ordinary routines, the joy of loving relationships or the pain of conflict and loneliness, we forget our opportunity to encounter a more lasting, comprehensive reality. Consumed by our own ideas, we close ourselves to the presence of a holy God, a divine being whose image shines in those who are open. Let us confess together that we might open ourselves to God's presence with us..

* **Prayer of Confession** Linda Maxey, liturgist

O God, you search after us when we have gone far from you, yet we confess that we have become consumed with our own affairs. We seldom pause to listen for the wind in the trees or hear the happy voices of children. Sometimes we feel that the burdens of the world fall entirely on our shoulders, and we have been slow to put our trust in you or to cooperate with others. When we take ourselves too seriously, remind us that we are only human! Make us patient with our mistakes, even as we are willing to forgive others. And remind us that we are also precious, not because we are good but because you have accepted us and called us to be your very own.

* **Silent Prayers of Confession**

* **Pouring the Water**

* **Words of Forgiveness** Linda Maxey, liturgist

One: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. In our forgiveness, may we blossom fully with purpose and resolve, so that the world will know us by our love.

* **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** *Glory Be to the Father* GLORIA PATRI

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.

Gospel Reading John 18:33-38 Linda Maxey, liturgist

Anthem *Hark! I Hear the Harps Eternal* Chancel Choir
MARK HAYES, arr. Dr. Adrian Hartsough, director
Andrew Morris, organ

Hebrew Bible Reading Genesis 12:1-4

Sermon *Because the world is living lies go with the truth:*
Abraham letting go to receive Pastor Helen Hutchison

Hymn *Great God of Every Blessing* ***Glory to God*** #694
AURELIA

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.

Call to Offering

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**

God is unfolding a new moment -- an hour of blessing, a time of healing, a day of beauty. It is a gift offered to you, filled with ordinary moments made holy by attention to the movements of Grace, the tremors of Love, the ripples of Hope, the whispers of Peace. This time is for you.

* **Closing Hymn** *Guide My Feet* ***Glory to God*** #741
GUIDE MY FEET

* **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.

Prayer List

Cares, Concerns and Celebrations

- Flowers today are from Karen and Henry Johns celebrating their 52nd Wedding Anniversary. Congratulations!
- Mary Kay Chandler and family for the death of her brother, Fred.
- Our families facing transitions and providing care to loved ones.
- Susan and Pat - dealing with health concerns.
- Mary Newberg Gale, our former associate pastor, has received a cancer diagnosis. Prayers for her and her family as she continues chemotherapy.
- Kelly Grube is receiving chemotherapy and is grateful for our prayer support.
- Nora Wallace asks for prayers for herself and her extended family as they manage multiple health issues.
- Kristi McAlister had successful spinal surgery this week at KUMC to address pain she was experiencing. There will be rehab at the Acute Rehab facility at KU. Pat is grateful for the services for Kristi and those that allowed her to stay close by as Kristi recovers. Thanks for your prayers.
- Betty Thomas, Joy Laird's mother, is receiving hospice care at Presbyterian Manor. Prayers help.
- 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.
- Nancy Brink, a friend of Lois and Dave Dutcher, asks for prayers as she copes with brain and lung cancer.

Birthdays in the Congregation

November 16	November 21
Rachel Lindbloom	Nora Wallace
Eric Fischer	Callie Livingood
November 17	**November 22**
Mary Kay Stephens	Suzanne Galle

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

Sunday Helpers

Ushers: Dorcas Gavi
Greeters: Eva Alley and Judy Wilson
South Door Greeter: Marcia McPhail
Offering: Paul Laird and Chris Heider
Friendship Pad Collector: Petra Peterson
Bag Brigade Volunteer: Nicole Barcomb

Calendar

November 15

9:15 am	Children's Sunday School
9:15 am	Adult and Youth Sunday School
10:00 am	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
10:30 am	Worship
11:30 am	Fall Meeting of the Congregation

November 16

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

6:00 pm	Westminster Ringers Rehearsal
November 17	
9:00 am	First 5 Years Classes
1:00 pm	Small World Classes
2:00 pm	Parkinson's Support Group
6:00 pm	Deacon Meeting
November 18	
9:00 am	First 5 Years Classes
5:00 pm	Personnel Committee Meeting
6:00 pm	Boy Scout Troop 59 Meeting
7:00 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
November 19	
9:00 am	First 5 Years Classes
1:00 pm	Small World Classes
6:30 pm	Property Committee Meeting
November 20	
9:00 am	First 5 Years Classes
10:00 am	Men's Group
6:30 pm	Girl Scout Troop 6219 Meeting
November 22	
8:30 am	Presby Pickers Rehearsal
9:15 am	Children's Sunday School
9:15 am	Adult and Youth Sunday School
10:00 am	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
10:30 am	Worship
11:30 am	Making Christmas Ornaments

Children Sunday School

- **Sunday School Classes for Children**
  - Our November Theme is called Practice Joy - We usually think of joy as a feeling, a response to something we experience. We might feel joy when we witness a bright sunrise, laugh with a dear friend, or hold a sweet baby. But Scripture invites us to experience joy as more than a passive response. We are urged to practice joy as a faithful choice. The practice of joy is ancient, as witnessed by the Psalter, which urges joy's expression in countless circumstances. Joy does not depend on our present circumstances; rather, joy trusts in God's current presence and future promises fulfilled. Indeed, Jesus reminds us that faithfulness can be costly; yet even that does not preclude joy. We are able to come to the fullest expression of joy when we see joy that does not depend on our circumstances but that celebrates God's presence everywhere and always. This month we will explore four practices of joy, attested to in the Psalms and manifested throughout Scripture:
    - See Joy in God's Creation
    - Rejoice in God's Mercy
    - Share Others' Joy
    - Practice Joy in All Times

Adult and Youth Sunday School

- Beginning November 15, Paul Laird will offer a class, "The Christmas Story in Music". It will be a consideration of the story as related in Matthew and Luke, but in chronological order skipping between the books as needed. We will also look at the musical selections (Christmas carols, oratorios, etc.) that depict the various scenes of the story. The class will meet in the Fireside Room through Advent.

Youth Activities and Opportunities

- **Christmas Ornament Creation –** Join the EcoTeam on November 22nd after worship in Fellowship Hall to make some nature-based ornaments. All are welcome!
- **Our next collection –**The Homeless Resource Center is seeking donations of **Stocking caps, bandages and cough drops.** Please begin rounding up, cleaning out and preparing for our next donation drive. Supplies can be delivered to the church office or to Kelly Grube

Pastor Helen's Monday Class will continue a study called **Christianities: the first 4 centuries C.E.** at 2 pm in the Fireside Room. We will be looking at different theological understandings in the early church movement, This week we will be looking at The Trinity and the Arian Controversy. Everyone is welcome.

A Called Meeting of the Congregation will be held on Sunday, November 15 at the end of worship. The purpose of the meeting will be to receive a report from the Nominating Committee. Please plan to attend.

Every Gift Tells a Story – Thank you to everyone who has turned in their 2027 Pledge form! If you have not turned yours in yet, please take a moment to turn in your form now! All of our ministries count on each of us to do our part so we can move forward in 2027 to bring you programs and provide the outreach we have come to expect from First Presbyterian Church! Thank you.