



First Press

Worship and Wisdom

First Presbyterian Church

November 27, 2022

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 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

Care

Deacon Family Groups

A	Peggy Southard	L-Ma	Linda Upstill
B	Grace Nganga	Mb-Ne	Nancy Rumsey
C-De	Cherie Hoover	Nf-R	Sandy Groene
Df-F	Diana Schoneweis	Sa-So	Kathy Stover
G-Hi	Julie Simon	Sp-V	Charles Tuttle
Hj-K	Charles Tuttle	W-Z	Peggy Southard

Prayer List

Cares, Concerns and Celebrations

- **David Glass**, son of **Ray Glass**, died November 17 at his home in DeSoto, KS Services are pending.
- **Linda Almon** requests our prayers for healing. She had some complications to knee surgery.
- **bobbie-frances mcdonald's** friend who had surgery. Prayers for a good recovery.
- **Bonnie Johnston** had hip surgery recently and is recovering. **Rich Givens** will be having knee surgery soon. Prayers for Rich and Bonnie in their recoveries!
- **Ray Glass and his family** are facing a variety of challenges at the moment. Prayers for strength.
- **Lisa Wallace**, Nora Wallace's sister, is suffering from severe long COVID complications and appreciates our prayers.
- **Prayers for Becky May and her friend Jeff Schroeder**. Following a car accident Jeff's daughter, Jillian, and grandson, Krew, continue to recover from their injuries as well as mourn the

loss of Jillian's husband and another child. They are doing better, but prayers are welcome.

- **Phil and Sharon Rankin** appreciate our continued prayers.
- **Gerry and Marcia McPhail** are grateful for our prayers. Gerry is now receiving hospice care as a helping hand and an assist for the family.
- **Jean Givens** is home following a couple of surgeries and is experiencing some pain and welcomes our prayers for healing.
- **Ellie Rose Calton**, great-granddaughter of Jan Poulson. Prayers for Ellie and all her family.
- **George Crump** is being treated for some health issues and is grateful for our prayers.
- **Jeannine Tiemann** continues to cope with health issues and is grateful for our prayers.
- **Kristi McAlister**, FPC member and daughter of Pat McAlister, who is facing some serious health challenges.

Birthdays in the Congregation

November 28

Karl Schorno
Nancy Bell

November 29

Lori Shiflett
Kristi McAlister

November 30

Janet Thellman
Stephani Boyd

December 1

Mason Harding

December 4

Quinn Peterson

Calendar

November 27

9:00 am	Nursery Open
9:15 am	Sunday School for all ages
10:30 am	Worship
11:45 am	Advent Festival
2:30 pm	Alison Gruber Voice Lesson

November 28

9:00 am	First 5 Years Classes – all week
12:30 pm	Matthew 25 Cohort meeting
1:00 pm	Staff Meeting
4:30 pm	Alison Gruber Voice Lesson
6:00 pm	Cub Scout Den Schwaller
6:00 pm	Westminster Ringers Rehearsal
7:00 pm	First 5 Years Board Meeting

November 29

1:00 pm Small World Classes
2:00 pm Welcome Committee Meeting

November 30

7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 59 Meeting
7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

December 1

1:00 pm Small World

December 3

1:00 pm Gingerbread House Decorating

December 4

9:00 am Nursery Open
9:15 am Sunday School for all ages
10:30 am Worship
2:30 pm Alison Gruber Voice Lesson

Sunday Helpers

Ushers: Martha Rose, Jan Poulsen, and Dorothy Devlin

Greeters: Claire and Hayley Lindemyer

Offering: John Hughes and Joan Golden

Friendship Pad Collector: Petra Peterson

Mugger: Dede Dresser

Welcome!

Welcome to everyone, 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. **Please be sure to sign the Friendship Pad if you are worshipping with us in person.** If you join us on-line, live, or recorded - **please send us an email letting us know you joined us in worship.**

Session and Church policy

This Sunday we are in a GREEN – LOW zone. Masks are optional. Thank you!

Mission

Justice Matters – Our Research Kickoff will be held on December 3rd at 9 am at First United Methodist Church.

No strings attached.

You do not have to sign up for a Research Committee, but this is a great place to "try on" the research process. I personally prefer this part of Justice Matters over all the other meetings and calls. This is where I listen and learn from care givers, city, and county officials, and from the workers of Justice Matters who work on committees other than the one I work with. There is a lot going on in Douglas County and there has been a lot in the news lately; this is where you hear from those in the mix; a lot changed during the time of pandemic, and it was not all good. Those living on the margins are more stressed, depressed, angry and less stable than before when we knew we had a problem and started working to fix the system. We have our work cut out for us; we just need to get to work. *Margie Dyck*

Mitten Tree is up! Bring us mittens, gloves, scarves, hats, socks, blankets, all things warm for those who cannot afford to re-stock every year. We are especially looking for items for children, but warm things for all ages are welcome. Items will be taken to Salvation Army early in December, so bring in your mittens and gloves before December 9th! Thank you.

Star Tree for Wishes from Teachers – The First 5 Years teachers are creating a wish list of items they would like to have in their classroom. There will be stars with their wish list items on the Christmas Tree in the Narthex (starting December 5). If you would like to purchase an item from the wish list, please return the item with the star to the preschool by December 20th. Thank you for your support of First 5 Years.

FPC's Special Christmas Giving Program 2022 has begun! Forms will be available in the Narthex or the church office through December 11th. Please consider a gift to one or more of the organizations to assist those in need around the world. Your gifts can support Family Promise, Habitat for Humanity, Lawrence Community Shelter, Warm Hearts, Willow Domestic Violence Center, FPC's First 5 Years Scholarship Fund, Heifer International or Presbyterian Disaster Fund. Thank you!

The EcoTeam will be collecting needed items for the **Lawrence Humane Society**. Please put your donations in the boxes provided around the EcoTeam Christmas Tree in Fellowship Hall. Most needed items include: dog treats, cat litter, cat and dog food, Kongs, Ziploc storage gallon-size bags, Dawn dish soap, blankets, and towels. A complete list of needs is posted on the EcoTeam bulletin board near the Fellowship Hall doors. Thank you for your donations.

Coming up in Adult Education

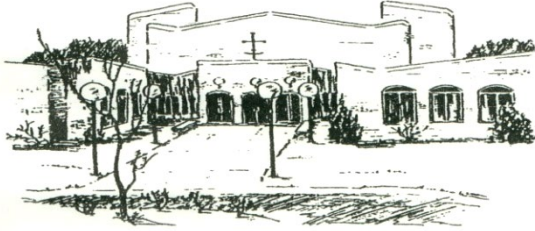
Beginning Sunday, December 4 at 9:15 am in Fellowship Hall, Paul Laird will facilitate, **"Christmas Carols and Music Across Time"**. The class will look at the history of Christmas music, including types of songs that have been popular in the season at various times and in different places, built around the Christmas music in our new hymnal, *Glory to God*. All are welcome to attend this three-week class.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Moving

FORWARD

Together



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1st Sunday of Advent

Rev. Dr. Helen Hutchison, pastor
Charles Tuttle, liturgist

November 27, 2022

Prelude

David Pérez, organ

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 include your email address if you wish. We invite you to note the names of those sitting near you and greet them before leaving today.

Cards of Encouragement: Blue cards found in the pew rack ~ please put in offering plate.

Choral Introit

In the Bleak Midwinter
CRANHAM

Chancel Choir
Angela Loganbill, director; David Pérez, piano

Call to Worship/Lighting the Advent Candle: Hope

The Lake Family

One: Come, Lord Jesus!

All: Today we begin the journey of Advent. Let us pray that we may be ready and able to welcome the Christ child into our lives again.

One: May the keeping of Advent be upon our hearts and lives.

All: Come, Lord Jesus!

One: May this Advent wreath constantly remind us to prepare for Christ's coming.

All: Come, Lord Jesus!

One: The first candle is the candle of Hope. It was hope that gave people the courage to go on, and it was hope that directed their prayers toward a Messiah. (Light one purple candle)

All: Because of our trust in what God has already done for us, we are bold to hope for what he will yet do with us.

One: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light."

All: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world." May our lights so shine before others that they will give glory to our Father in heaven! Amen.

* **Hymn of Praise**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (vs. 1, 2, 6, 7)
VENI EMMANUEL

Glory to God #88

* **Call to Confession**

Charles Tuttle, liturgist

One: Advent is a time to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. Have we done that this week or has Christ been crowded out of Advent? Let us confess our sins together. Let us pray ...

* **Prayer of Confession** (unison)

Charles Tuttle, liturgist

If we have spent so much time shopping that we have had little time to spend with those whom we are shopping for, forgive us and give us sensitivity. If we get so busy practicing for the Christmas programs that we forget to think about what they mean, forgive us, and give us understanding. If we decorate our houses but neglect the inner beauty of our homes, forgive us, and grant us love. If we are worried about how much Christmas is going to cost us, but have given little thought to how much Christmas cost God, forgive us, and give us perspective. If we are so consumed with thinking about Christmas 2022, that we have little consideration for the meaning of the first Christmas, forgive us and give us insight. (Silent prayers) Amen.

* **Pouring the Water**

* **Declaration of Forgiveness**

Charles Tuttle, liturgist

One: God has made a highway in the wilderness and brought forth streams in the desert! Jesus Christ came to break down the walls that divide us from God and from each other. Praise God! We are forgiven and freed to reach out in love.

* **Passing the Peace**

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

from The Presbyterian Hymnal

*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.*

Children's Moment

Paul Laird

Prayer of Illumination

Charles Tuttle, liturgist

Come and see! We have found the Messiah! He is present to us in the Word read and the Word proclaimed. Come and see! The living God awaits us here in these pages. Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts bear witness to you, O God, and to the Anointed One, Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Hebrew Bible Reading

Isaiah 2:1-5

Charles Tuttle, liturgist

Vocal Anthem

O Divine Redeemer
CHARLES GOUNOD

Vanessa Thomas, soloist
David Pérez, piano

New Testament Reading

Matthew 24:36-44; 25:1-13

Sermon

"Right on Time"

Pastor Helen Hutchison

Hymn

"Sleepers, Wake!" A Voice Astounds Us (vs. 1, 2)
WACHET AUF

Glory to God #349

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
And, lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever...
Amen.**

Call for Offering

* **Offertory Response**

In the Bleak Midwinter (verse 4)
CRANHAM

Glory to God #144

*What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can give Him, give my heart.*

* **Prayer of Dedication**

* **Affirmation of Faith**

We believe in Jesus Christ and his gospel, born to us all so long ago in Bethlehem of Judea. We believe in Him whose birth glorified Bethlehem, but for whom there was no room in the Inn. We believe in Him whose guiding star brought together to his manger the humble shepherds and the wise men. We believe in Him whose guiding star can bring together in his Name the humble and the wise everywhere. We believe in Him who walked among the common people, and who was

welcomed by those with open minds and yearning hearts, whom the poor, the oppressed, the discouraged, the sick and afflicted, welcomed and accepted as their Lord and Savior.

We believe in Him whose life changed the course of history, over whom kings had no power, whose life humbled the proud, toppled the mighty, and elevated those of low degree.

We believe in Him whose love changed human hearts for the better, and whose life and death on the Cross proved that it is more important to serve than to be served, and that the greatest are those who give their lives in service for others. We believe in Him who is the Prince of Peace, whose spirit makes for justice and peace among all peoples, everywhere.

We believe that the Christmas spirit - the spirit of Christ - is the spirit that can change the world for the better through the power of love, faith and hope.

* Closing Hymn

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates
TRURO

Glory to God #93

Blessing and Charge

Postlude

David Pérez, organist

* Stand as you are able – in spirit or in body

Family Faith Focus

Bringing Advent into the Home - Families are busy and especially busy during preparation for Christmas. No one needs another item on the list of things to do. However, there are a couple of simple activities that may add some meaning to your advent and your anticipation of celebration.

Blessing of the Tree - Blessings are simple rituals to add to your child's faith development. They create a pause and a recognition of God's presence. Before decorating the tree, bring everyone together and read the following blessing or one you create yourself.

God who created the birds in the air, the fish in the sea, the stars in the sky, and the trees in the ground, bless this tree as we decorate it and make it a joyful symbol in our home. May its branches remind us of the shade and shelter you provide for us and for many creatures. May its trunk remind us of your strength. May its lights bring us peace. May we remember your gift to us this season, the gift of the baby Jesus.

From "Faithful Families" by Traci Smith

Family Gifts of Care - Children love gift giving as well as receiving. This year consider sitting down with family members and deciding where you might want to give a gift of money (and of course volunteer time if that fits for you). We used to do this with our kids, and we discussed possibilities such as the Humane Society, homeless concerns through the Lawrence programs for people experiencing homelessness, Just Food, etc. Of course, the conversation is as important as the chosen project/agency. You can read the Matthew 25 scripture that challenges Christians to look beyond family boundaries.

Matthew 25: 45 – "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you? Then he will answer them Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me."

Education for all ages!

For Children

This Sunday the children will be learning the story of Elijah and the Widow from I Kings 17:8-16. We will learn that God sends miracles in surprising ways. How has God surprised you this week?

For Adults

Parables – Stories for Life in God's World - Rod Nitz will continue leading this study of the timeless stories that speak to our faith and influence the decisions we make while discovering what makes a parable unique.

For Men

Men's Friday Morning Group – Join a group of men meeting on Friday mornings at 10:00 am in the Fireside Room at FPC. Call Charles Tuttle for more information. 785-760-0747. This group will not meet November 25th.

Advent begins November 27 – This Sunday

Mark your calendar for our Advent Festival!



After worship on November 27, we will gather for a soup and salad lunch and then the fun and fellowship really begins! Some of us will be helping to set up and decorate the trees in both the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. There will be stations for children of all ages to make items to decorate the trees, send to some of our friends, or take home to decorate their own space.

This is a great way to jump start your decorating energy or share your excess excitement for the season. Advent is a time for waiting, but not always without action! Everyone is always welcome at FPC!

Attending to Advent: Prose, Poetry, and Prayer – a daily devotional

The weeks leading up to Christmas can be hectic and full. The opportunity to pause and attend to Advent can get lost amid preparations for the big holiday, vacation plans or end-of-year work. This daily devotional, which includes submissions from poets you have read in the pages of the *Outlook*, invites readers to pause and reflect on narratives in the Christmas story. Each week, the devotions address a different theme: Week 1: Mary; Week 2: Joseph; Week 3: Herod; Week 4: the Christ child; Christmas Eve: Emmanuel. Daily readings will take us deeper into the scriptural story of the birth of Christ and explore contemporary subjects like parenting, power, war and violence, vulnerability, innocence, and the many ways God's incarnation can be experienced. If you would like to be on the email distribution list, please contact Charles Tuttle at cftuttle@gmail.com. If you would like a printed copy please contact the church office at 785-843-4171 or linda@firstpreslawrence.org

The First 5 Years program is selling a 2023 calendar featuring artwork by each class in our program. The



calendars are \$10.00 each with all proceeds going to our scholarship fund. If you would like to order a calendar, please fill out the order forms available on the tables in the Narthex and return it to Ms. Jennifer, with payment, by December 5th. Calendars will be ready for pick up the week of December 12th. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Jones at 785-842-8291 or jennifer@firstpreslawrence.org. As always, thank you for your support!

Festival of Trees – The First 5 Years program is donating a tree to the Lawrence festival of Trees again this year. Our theme is “*A Charlie Brown Christmas*” with Charlie Brown and the Peanuts gang ornaments. The majority of the ornaments and decorations were created by the children in our program! Public viewing of the trees will be November 28 through December 4 at Liberty Hall (644 Massachusetts Street). Viewing hours can be found on this website at www.oconnellchildrensshelter.org or on their Facebook page – Lawrence Festival of Trees. There is a suggested donation of \$5.00 for ages 12 and up. This is a fund raiser for The O’Connell Children’s Shelter. They provide emergency services to youth and families in Lawrence and the surrounding areas. If you have never been to this event I recommend it. It is really fun to see all of the different trees and wreaths. Jennifer Jones

Christmas Joy Offering – On December 24 and 25 we will receive your gifts to the Christmas Joy Special Offering of PCUSA. When we give to the Christmas Joy Offering, we share our love with the leaders of our Church – past, present, and future. The Christmas Joy Offering provides assistance to current and retired church workers and their families in their time of need, and develops our future leaders at Presbyterian–related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Please use the envelope provided on December 24 and 25 or mark your gift as “Christmas Joy”. Thank you!

Lawrence Community Handbell Choir Yuletide Ringing Schedule

- The first concert of the season will be Sunday, November 27th at 7:00 pm at First United Methodist Church, 946 Vermont St.
- On Friday, December 2nd at 7:30 pm you can hear them at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 11311 Johnson Drive, Shawnee, KS.
- They will ring at the Lawrence Holiday Farmers Market on Saturday, December 10th at 10:00 am. They will be in the Open Pavilion at the Douglas County Fairgrounds, 1930 Harper Street in Lawrence.
- Then on Friday, December 16th they will share in a concert with David Pérez, FPC organist, at 7:30 pm, here at First Presbyterian Church. You will want to have these on your holiday calendar!

Congratulations to our Officers for 2023

Elders by Class

2023

Paul Laird
Heather Soper
Jeff Southard
Linda Watts

2024

Peg Livingood
Jan Roth
Jim Rumsey
Mark Shiflett

2025

Eric Fischer
Melinda Roblee Fischer
Henry Johns
Ed Manda

Deacons by Class

2023

Sandra Groene
Robert Mugridge
Nancy Rumsey
Charles Tuttle
Linda Upstill

2024

Janet Adams
Grace Nganga
Diana Schoneweis
Larry Schlosser
Peggy Southard
Jeanine Tiemann

2025

Russell Heikes
Linda Longino
Allen MacFarlane

Matthew 25 - PC(USA) leaders continue their work dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery

It is an important article that continues to address how we as members of a Christian faith tradition might continue to understand and be in solidarity with indigenous folk. Rev. Danelle McKinney, who many of us know through her sharing with FPC (First Presbyterian Church), along with her husband Rev. Ron McKinney and daughter Madison, **passionately** speaks in a video that is part of the article. Her affirmation of water as a sacred kin to all of us is especially important for us in Kansas considering the slow suicide for life resulting from water depletion of the Ogallala Aquifer. (One of the presentations in the 2023 Earth Care Forum in January will address this depletion.)

FPC's "Acknowledgement of Place" signage all can see when exiting the church narthex prompted a series of Sunday morning gatherings that included Jeff Southard, Ron McKinney (Choctaw), HINU students, and Steve Purdue (Kickapoo/Potawatomi) with special assistance from Danelle McKinney (Sisseton Wahpeton Ovate). As a result of this series, Purdue invited me to serve on the Committee for Curriculum Development of Indigenous History/Culture for K-12 in Lawrence public schools. Hopefully, FPC will be having an opportunity to share what is occurring with that committee. Its mission is being accomplished and the results may well be a model for Kansas and beyond, not because of my participation as much as the dynamic collaboration of KU, HINU, and indigenous/non-native folk in sharing expertise and a sense of urgency in developing a curriculum.

Thad Holcombe

In the Community

Haskell Cultural Center Tour and Presentation, Wednesday, November 30 at 9 am

Haskell Indian Nations University was founded as a boarding school whose intent was to "kill the Indian and save the child" and through the resilience and persistence of students and Haskell leaders, the institution has developed into a university which now serves as a higher educational institution and opportunity for students to embrace their cultural identities.

You are invited to attend a tour and presentation of the Haskell Cultural Center and learn about the unique tribal cultures that are represented in the heritage of Haskell. This event has been set by the FPC Matthew 25 Cohort for Wednesday, November 30 at 9 am. Location: 2411 Barker Ave, Lawrence.

For more information or to indicate your interest, please email: lindajoywatts@gmail.com

Just Food Donation Ideas Just Food is the local food pantry for Lawrence and Douglas County and FPC has been a big supporter over the years. With the holidays soon to be upon us, here are some ideas for donations to Just Food that may not have occurred to you: (next page)

Powdered milk, cooking oil, coffee / tea, flour / yeast, sugar (white or brown), diapers, feminine hygiene products, salt / pepper, spices, cake mix / frosting, dish detergent, paper towels, can opener.

Some of these things could make a happier holiday for some of our friends who could not afford to include the "extras" especially with the costs of the basics going so high at the moment. Thank you!

Coming up in December!

December 3

Gingerbread House building for children and youth at Pastor Helen's home at 1:00 pm

December 9 and 16

Christmas Musical offerings at 7:30 pm in the Sanctuary

December 18

Lessons and Carols for worship at 10:30 am

All Church Christmas Dinner at 11:30 am

December 21

Blue Christmas Worship at 6:30 pm in the Chapel

The holidays aren't always a happy time for everyone.

December 24

Christmas Eve worship at 5:30 pm and 9:00 pm

December 25

Christmas Day Worship at 10:30 am

Wear your 'jammies and hear about the meaning of Christmas from a very tired St. Nick!



PNK YOUTH WINTER TO DO LIST

-  Save the Date - Sunday, January 15, 2023
-  Join Your PNK Friends For Worship!
-  Share lunch together!
-  Go Tubing at Snow Creek in Weston, MO!