



First Press

Worship and Wisdom

First Presbyterian Church

March 19, 2023

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!

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.**

Care

Deacon Family Groups - 2023

A-Bra	Grace Nganga	Mc-Mz	Nancy Rumsey
Bro-C	Janet Adams	N-Q	Sandy Groene
D-E	Diana Schoneweis	R-Sc	Linda Longino
F-Go	Jeanine Tiemann	Se-So	Russ Heikes
Gr-Hi	Larry Schlosser	St-T	Allen MacFarlane
Ho-K	Charles Tuttle	U-Z	Peggy Southard
L-Ma	Linda Upstill		

Prayer List

Cares, Concerns and Celebrations

- **Djifa Gavi and Joel** are excited that Joel's dad and Djifa's husband, Kass Soklou, has a timeline for coming to the US from Africa! It may still be several months, but progress! Celebrate!
- **Lois and Jack Leatherman** are facing changes in their health and lives at this time. Prayers as they work through the process.
- **Jean Stokes** died March 9th at Presbyterian Manor. Services were held at the Manor on March 16.

- **Arlois McLay and Jim Buckley** who are supporting each other at home as they recover from surgeries and complications.
- **Ray Glass and his family** continue to deal with a variety of challenges and appreciate our prayers.
- **The Wallaces** send their gratitude for all the prayerful support. Please remember us as we adjust to new arrangements and work on rest and healing for all.
- **George and Karen Crump** are both experiencing some health issues and could use our prayers as they navigate these new issues and challenges.
- **Kristi McAlister**, FPC member and daughter of Pat McAlister, who is facing some serious health challenges.
- **Phil and Sharon Rankin** appreciate our continued prayers.

The Flowers in the Chancel today are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Jim and Jean Stokes from John and Ruth Hughes.

Birthdays in the Congregation

March 21 Nancy Winslow	March 25 Dave Kyner
March 22 Ted Waiss	March 26 Karen Schorno
March 24 Jean Givens	

Calendar

March 19	
9:00 am	Nursery Open
9:15 am	Sunday School for All Ages
10:30 am	Worship
March 20	
9:00 am	First 5 Years Classes – All Week
1:00 pm	Staff Meeting
4:15 pm	FPC Music Staff Meeting
5:00 pm	The Gospel According to Jesus' Enemies – "The Wave"
6:00 pm	Cub Scout Den – Schwaller
6:00 pm	Cub Scout Pack 3059 Meeting
6:00 pm	F5Y Staff Meeting
6:00 pm	Westminster Ringers Rehearsal

March 21

- 1:00 pm Small World Classes
- 2:00 pm Parkinson's Support Group
- 6:00 pm Deacon Meeting
- 6:00 pm Kaw Valley Fiber Guild Meeting
- 6:00 pm Solar Power Task Force Meeting
- 7:00 pm Leah Circle Meeting

March 22

- 6:00 pm Lenten Worship – The Breads of Seder
- 7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 59
- 7:00 pm Chancel Choir

March 23

- 11:00 am The Gospel According to Jesus' Enemies – The Crowd, the Soldiers
- 1:00 pm Small World Classes
- 4:00 pm Mission Committee Meeting

March 24

- 10:00 am Men's Group

March 25

- 9:00 am All Church Work Day

March 26

- 9:00 am Nursery Open
- 9:15 am Sunday School for All Ages
- 10:15 am Worship
- 11:30 am Community Garden Planning Meeting

Sunday Helpers

Ushers: Jan Poulsen, Dianne and Vic Sisk
Greeter: Dorothy Devlin and Heather Soper
Offering: Jeff Southard and Jim Rumsey
Friendship Pad Collector: Petra Peterson
Mugger: Linda Longino
Church Mouse: Bob Bates

Worship

Lenten Organ Concert Opportunities - Our Music Ministry is offering two concerts for our Lenten Season!

Friday, March 31 at 7:30 pm – Bales Organ Recital Hall on the KU Campus

Our Organist, David Pérez, is giving his Graduate Recital in pursuit of his Ph.D. The public is invited to his recital and he would welcome our attendance!

Sunday, April 2 at 5:00 pm – First Presbyterian Church Sanctuary

Jacob Hofeling, special guest organist, will offer a concert for us to share his gifts and talents. All are welcome!

Easter Lilies

You can purchase an Easter Lily for our Chancel on Easter morning by filling out the forms available in the Narthex. Suggested Donations of \$20 will cover the cost of the Lily. If you would like to pick up your Lily you may do so after worship on Easter morning or beginning on Tuesday, April 11. (The Church Office will be closed on Monday.)

Support

Personnel

We are hiring! Nursery Workers needed to care for our smallest people on Sunday mornings! Must be 18 or older. Hours are 9 to noon and the hourly wage is \$15.00. If no children need care you will be paid for 2 hours of work. Please pass the word to folks who love children and might need a little extra cash.

Property

You are invited to an **“All Church Work Day”** on Saturday, March 25 from 9 am to noon. We are going to do some chores around the building to make sure we are ready for guests during Holy Week and Easter. If you can help for an hour or all morning, we need you to join us! Let us know you are coming by signing up on the Friendship Pad today or email Jim Rumsey a. Thank you!

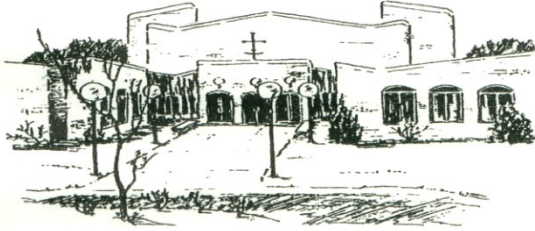
As a result of a joint meeting of the Property Committee, chaired by Jim Rumsey, and the EcoTeam, two earth care endeavors have been initiated. **A Solar Task Force and a Community Garden Team** have had initial meetings resulting in exploring the viability of solar power for our building and the feasibility of a community garden on the west side of the church. If you are interested in working with either of these groups please contact the church office - 785-843-4171 - for a referral to the appropriate people. Thank you!

Mission

One Great Hour of Sharing – This special offering will be collected on Easter Sunday. The funds share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed. Please consider a generous donation this Lenten Season. Thank you.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is on the ground in Turkey and Syria after the February 6th earthquake. The 7.8 magnitude quake and its aftershocks have left more than **54,000 people dead and thousands more injured**. These numbers will continue to rise in the search and as a result of the lack of supplies and cold weather. They are also fighting an 11-year war in Syria, complicating everything. (Mark your check to “earthquake” in the memo line.) Thank you!

Don't miss the EcoTeam bulletin board! Carol Kyner has displayed information about how long various items take to break down if left in our landfills. Recycling can save so much of our environment! See how and where to recycle your items! The bulletin board is at the entrance to the north side of Fellowship Hall.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Rev. Dr. Helen Hutchison, pastor
Ruth Hughes, liturgist

March 19, 2023

David Pérez, organist

Prelude

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.

Introit

Chancel Choir

Angela Loganbill, director
David Pérez, piano

Call to Worship

One: Come home, home to the embrace of God.

All: We are walking the Lenten path from past errors to future possibilities.

One: We are walking from haunting memories to a new day.

All: We are walking from troubling fears to a new hope.

One: Come home, taste the goodness of God, hear the love of God, feel God's tender grace.

All: We are walking toward wholeness. We are on the path of joy, and our hearts are filled with thanks and praise.

One: Come home this day; dwell with Christ in this holy place and in God's amazing grace.

- * **Hymn of Praise** *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound* (vs. 1, 2, 3) **Glory To God** #649
AMAZING GRACE

- * **Call to Confession** Ruth Hughes, liturgist
One: How reluctant we are to answer the call to confession. Quickly we turn our thoughts to something else instead of faithfully assessing where we have been and what we have done. As we speedily disconnect ourselves from advertising calls, so too do we want to disconnect from admitting our shortcomings to God. But our God is a loving God and listens with love. Let us therefore open our hearts and let God in. Let us pray.

- * **Prayer of Confession** (unison) Ruth Hughes, liturgist
Almighty God, source of all the good that we can ever know, forgive us. We are ashamed to discover in ourselves the seeds of meanness, envy, hatred and prejudice. Prepare us for the healing that you offer our troubled spirits. Grant that we may also find the seeds of kindness, love, fellowship and peace within ourselves. May we faithfully strive to understand your Word in order to nurture the good that is latent within us. We pray in Christ's name.

- * **Silent Prayers of Confession**

- * **Pouring the Water**

- * **Declaration of Forgiveness** Ruth Hughes, liturgist
One: Listen! Hear this good news. Our Lord, who walked these roads and faced temptation, understands our quandaries and temptations. Remember that Jesus always listens, forgives, and calls us to new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, your confession is heard and your shortcomings already forgotten.
All: Alleluia! Amen!

- * **Passing the Peace** Ruth Hughes, 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* from The Presbyterian Hymnal
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.*

Children's Moment bobbie frances mcdonald

Bell Choir Anthem *Fantasy on Kingsfold* Westminster Ringers
H. DEAN WAGNER, arr. Carol Fleeger, director

Prayer of Illumination

Mysterious Christ, we do not always understand your words. In you, we see a man who works miracles, yet who had no home of his own; a brother who inspires us to love our families, yet who calls us to greater commitments and allegiances. Your ministry calls disciples to find a new kind of security in homelessness, a new kind of family outside of blood kin. As we hear your words once again, increase our understanding, so that we might follow you more nearly. Amen.

New Testament Reading John 9:1-41

Sermon *"Who Did That?"* Rev. Dr. Helen Hutchison

Hymn *Be Still, My Soul* **Glory to God #819**
FINLANDIA

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer (as translated by the Maori people)

**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.**

Offering

Offertory David Pérez, pianist

* **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
Amen*

* **Prayer of Dedication**

* **Affirmation of Faith**

We believe in God, who lights the dawn to chase away the darkness; who rolls away each stone of doubt; who surprises us with incredible gifts of family and friends, silence and laughter; who raises us from sadness and despair to the possibilities of blessing and joy.

We believe in Jesus, friend of the poor and searcher for the lost, who comes to us in our grief and longing, calls us by name and sends us on the paths of peace to speak of an awesome love that is not overcome by death.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the hidden partner, the gentle messenger of God, who fills our every breath with blessing; who guides us in the dark, beckons us to do good, speaks to us in dream and image, and watches over us with tender compassion.

We believe in the church, an instrument of God in this present moment, striving for justice, celebrating in joy, clawing at despair, living in hope, praying for healing and forever proclaiming Good News of God's persistent and redeeming love.

* **Closing Hymn**

Come, Labor On
ORA LABORA

Glory To God #719

Blessing and Charge

Postlude

David Pérez, pianist

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

Education for all ages!

For Children

Spring Break! No Sunday School for Children this Sunday due to the beginning of Spring Break. We look forward to seeing all of you next week!

For Adults

Handel's Messiah – Ready for Easter Through Music

Meeting in Fellowship Hall Paul Laird will lead this class.

Messiah by George Frideric Handel is without doubt considered to be

his most famous piece of religious music, but the truth is that Handel wrote it for theatrical presentation. In this class we will consider the oratorio's creation, the context of its presentations by Handel, the fascinating libretto by Charles Jennens, Handel's music for the work, and why it remains so popular today.

Meeting Jesus at the Table

Join us on March 19 at 9:15 am in the Fireside Room

This study provides biblical insights along with thought-provoking queries regarding our own time, such as who should we invite to Sunday dinner and who is left out and left behind in our culture today.

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.

Opportunities During Lent

Lenten Study with Pastor Helen

The Gospel According to Jesus' Enemies – Pastor Helen will host this class offered at two different weekday times during Lent. The Scriptures tell us of many different people and groups who are involved in condemning Jesus to the cross including: Caiaphas, Pilate, Herod, Judas, the Centurion, the Guard, the Soldiers and the Crowd. It is easy to just say they were misguided or bad people. We hope by taking time to look at those people and groups and see what we might understand about their motivations that we might be able to learn from them.

Meeting Thursdays at 11:00 am or Mondays at 5:00 pm

The topics will be presented on the following dates. You are free to join whichever class works best for you each week!

Monday, March 20

Thursday, March 23 and Monday, March 27

Thursday, March 30 and Monday, April 3

Class 4

Class 5

Class 6

The Wave - video

The Crowd, The Soldiers

Complete / Wrap up

Wednesday Worship

Wednesday Night Bread for the Journey – In response to requests for alternate worship times, Pastor Helen is offering a worship service on Wednesday evenings during Lent. She will offer worship and a light meal in Fellowship Hall. Each week there will be a different bread for communion, for our meal and to guide our worship experience. Following the tradition of the early church, the meal begins with the bread of life and ends with the cup of salvation. **Meeting in Fellowship Hall at 6pm on Wednesdays through March 29.**



Easter Egg-stravaganza!



Family Ministry is planning to have this event on **Sunday, April 2 from 2:30 to 4:00 pm** in Fellowship Hall.

Activities include an Easter Egg Hunt, a craft activity and other things with an Easter theme. This is a great time to bring a friend to a church event and introduce them to your church family.

We are looking for donations of candy for the Egg Hunt. We also need paper towel and toilet paper rolls for craft projects. Please bring your donation to the church office before March 30 so we can fill the eggs! Thank you.

If you can help, please contact the church office at 785-843-4171 – helpers are always appreciated.

Holy Week 2023

Maundy Thursday Seder – This is an introduction to the Holy Seder Meal of the Jewish people and a reflection on how it might help us better understand our Christian Tradition. This is a potluck meal along with the Seder questions and the telling of Moses freeing the Hebrew people. 6:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. Please sign up in the Narthex or on the Friendship Pad so we have enough tables set up for everyone. Thank you!

Good Friday – We will have a meditative worship service at 6:30 pm in the Chapel.



Easter Breakfast - Hosted by our Youth! On Easter Sunday morning the Youth of FPC are providing breakfast for us! There will be no adult Sunday School, so have breakfast with us beginning at 9:00 am in Fellowship Hall. Remember the pancakes? This time we are having sausage, biscuits, and gravy! YUM!

Presbyterian Women

The PW Rummage Sale is back! April 27 – 29

Start collecting your items for our Spring Rummage Sale. We will begin accepting your donations on Monday, April 24 at 9:00 am in Fellowship Hall. We are looking for clean clothing, shoes, books, DVDs, CDs, toys, housewares, small appliances, sports equipment, arts and crafts supplies, and lots more. We cannot accept large pieces of furniture or TVs. Durable medical equipment can be donated to the FPC Parish Nurse Medical Equipment Lending Library. Your donations provide support to our community service opportunities as well as those at FPC.

We will also need your volunteer time. If you can help organize, set up or sell – we need you to sign up! There will be sign-up sheets on the PW bulletin board near the church office. Mark your calendar and help us out! Take a half day off work to support this community function. There are people who depend on our Rummage Sale for their household extras! Need more information? Contact Carol Kyner at chaseroo.cat44@gmail.com

Matthew 25

A Call to put Our "Faith into Action" - HB 2238 which bans the participation of transgender children in sports will soon be on Governor Kelly's desk to sign into law. There are only 2 identified students in the state that this law will affect. But protecting students is not the reason for the law. During the monthly Kansas Interfaith Alliance (KIFA) advocates meeting Rabbi Moti Rieber, KIFA executive director summed it up this way. *These legislators are following the Nazi playbook of coming for small minorities first. If we don't take notice and push back it won't be long before they will be lining up the buses for everyone else who doesn't fit into their vision of a white America.*

Governor Kelly is expected to veto the bill. Hopefully there will be enough legislators to prevent the Republican supermajority from overriding her veto. But another bill will be introduced next year. We worship with transgender people every Sunday. They are valued members of our congregation. We must stand up for them and say this is unacceptable. Use this [link](#) to send a letter of support to Governor Kelly now. Rabi Moti is encouraging us to let her know that **as persons of faith and a faith community** we oppose this bill because it directly contradicts Christ's teachings.

[KIFA advocate meetings](#) are open to all who want to attend. They are held via zoom the second Monday of the month from 7-8 pm.

Lawrence Habitat for Humanity – Spring Spruce Up – Volunteers Needed – Habitat partners with many of their Aging in Place homeowners to complete outdoor projects getting their homes and yards ready for springtime! If you like helping out in the community and like working outdoors, this is a great opportunity for you! Saturday, April 8th, 1 to 4 pm. Contact Jesse at hps@lawrencehabitat.org to get details. You can also text 785-813-6406. Bring a friend and make an afternoon of it!

Interfaith Mental Health Outreach – The Ninth Street Missionary Baptist Church is the newest congregation in the Interfaith Mental Health Outreach (IMHO) network. A Mental Health First Aid training class will be offered for their Mental Health Team on Saturday, April 15th. Since the class can accommodate up to 30 individuals, we are recruiting individuals who may be interested from IMHO-affiliated congregations and students from other congregations who are not yet affiliated with IMHO.

The \$30 fee for the class will be waived for individuals from IMHO congregations. Individuals from other congregations can either pay the fee or have it waived if their congregation is ready to join the IMHO network. To get your name on the list for the class and to get more information about your congregation joining IMHO, please follow up with me at rickcagan@gmail.com. Thank you, Rick Cagan

Other dates and times are available through Bert Nash for this class as well: Tuesday, March 28 from 9 to 3:30 or Thursday, March 30 from 9 to 3.

Visiting Scholar in Religion – Dr. Celene Ibrahim will be in Lawrence March 23 -26. Dr. Celene Ibrahim is an accomplished scholar, author, and teacher. A member of the faculty at the Groton School in Boston, Dr. Ibrahim teaches ethics, philosophy, and comparative religions. She has served as the Muslim Chaplain at Tufts University, as Islamic Studies Scholar-in-Residence at Hebrew College and Andover Newton Theological Seminary, and as a member of the religion faculty at Merrimack College. She has been a special lecturer at the Boston Islamic Seminary, the Hartford Seminary, and the Episcopal Divinity School. She has served as the Co-Director of the Center for Inter-Religious and Communal Leadership Education, a nationally recognized program on interfaith education. The program is presented by the Theologian in Residence Consortium Members: First Baptist Church, First Presbyterian Church, First United Methodist Church, Islamic Center of Lawrence, Lawrence Jewish Community Congregation, Plymouth Congregational Church, Trinity Episcopal Church, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Lawrence, Ecumenical Campus Ministries at KU (ECM), Haskell Indian Nations University, University of Kansas: Department of Religious Studies.

Dr. Celene Ibrahim

Visiting Scholar in Religion

March 23-26, 2023



PUBLIC EVENTS:

THURSDAY, MARCH 23

Dr. Ibrahim will be speaking at Haskell Indian Nations University and University of Kansas

6:30 pm @ Lawrence Public Library, 707 Vermont St.

“Uncommon Alliances, Common Good: Making Religious and Philosophical Diversity Our Strength”

FRIDAY, MARCH 24

Islamic Center of Lawrence, 1917 Naismith Dr.

5:00 pm: Meeting with Ladies Qur'an Study Group
(Topic: Women and Gender in the Qur'an)

6:00 pm: Keynote Presentation "Islam and Dialogue: Qur'anic Perspectives on Other Religions"

7:15 pm: Breaking of Fast, Maghreb prayers

8:00 pm: Dinner prepared by the members of the Islamic Center and Continued Discussion (Q&A)

9:00 pm: Isha and Taraweeh prayers

SATURDAY, MARCH 25

Noon @ Lawrence Jewish Community Congregation, 917 Highland Dr.

“Jewish-Muslim Feminist Futures”

6:30 pm @ Plymouth Congregational Church, 925 Vermont St.

“Sacred Wisdom for Contemporary Times: Lessons on Thriving from Biblical Women in the Qur'an”

SUNDAY, MARCH 26

9:30 am @ First Baptist Church, 1330 Kasold Dr.

This Adult Education class is open to all in person or on Zoom: Scan the QR code for the Zoom Link.



The Visiting Scholar in Religion program in Lawrence brings the academic and faith communities together with an acclaimed speaker to address issues of faith.