



First Press

Worship and Wisdom

First Presbyterian Church

September 18, 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	Annette Camlin
Hj-K	Charles Tuttle	W-Z	Peggy Southard

Prayer List

Cares, Concerns and Celebrations

- **Lisa Wallace**, Nora Wallace's sister, is suffering from severe long COVID complications and appreciates our prayers.
- **Mary Warren** requests prayers for her sister's 2-year-old grandson, James, who was just diagnosed with stage 2 liver cancer and for their family as they navigate this new medical reality.
- **Prayers for Becky May and her friend Jeff**, who lost a son-in-law and grandchild in a car accident recently. Jeff's daughter and granddaughter are hospitalized.
- **Phil and Sharon Rankin** appreciate our continued prayers.
- **Jean Givens** is home following a couple of surgeries and is experiencing some pain and welcomes our prayers for healing.
- **Gerry and Marcia McPhail** are grateful for prayers. Marcia is dealing with some dental work issues and asks for direction and guidance to work through the situation.

- **Duane Janne**, brother of Carol Kyner, is being treated for brain cancer. Prayers appreciated.
- **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

September 19

Arlois McLay

Marilyn Harp

September 20

Marcia McPhail

September 22

Pat McAlister

September 23

Jan Roth

September 24

Gaye Groene

September 25

Jo Cummings

Ron Teeter

Calendar

September 18

9:00 am

Sunday Nursery Open

9:15 am

Sunday School for All Ages

10:30 am

Worship

11:45 am

Meet the Pastor

2:30 pm

Alison Gruber Voice Lessons

September 19

9:00 am

First 5 Years Classes

12:30 pm

Matthew 25 Cohort Meeting

1:00 pm

Staff Meeting

4:00 pm

Mission Committee Meeting

6:00 pm

Cub Scout Den Meeting

6:00 pm

Cub Scout Pack 3059 Meeting

6:00 pm

Westminster Ringers Rehearsal

September 20

9:00 am

First 5 Years Classes

1:00 pm

Small World Classes

6:00 pm

Deacon Meeting

7:00 pm

PW Leah Circle

September 21

9:00 am

First 5 Years Classes

5:30 pm

Personnel Committee Meeting

7:00 pm

Chancel Choir Rehearsal

7:00 pm	Boy Scouts Troop 59 Meeting
September 22	
9:00 am	First 5 Years Classes
1:00 pm	Small World Classes
September 23	
9:00 am	First 5 Years Classes
September 25	
9:00 am	Sunday Nursery Open
9:15 am	Sunday School for All Ages
10:30 am	Worship
2:30 pm	Alison Gruber Voice Lessons

Sunday Helpers

Ushers: Mark Shiflett, Mark and Diana Schoneweis

Greeters: Carol Smith, Jim and Nancy Rumsey

Offering: Jim Rumsey and Erinn Barcomb-Peterson

Friendship Pad Collector: Petra Peterson

Mugger: Julie Simon

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.

Session and Church policy

This Sunday we are in a YELLOW – MEDIUM zone. Masks are optional. Thank you!

Worship

Update! Our nursery is open and staffed for your use every Sunday. You can leave your child in the care of our wonderful people beginning at 9 am until 11:45 am. Thank you to our staff. We hope you will check in and introduce yourself to our workers on Sunday.

Share a Meal with Pastor Helen

The dates are full for this round, and they are going well so far! We will have October dates available soon!

Education

For Children

This Sunday the children will be learning about Abraham and Sarah's visitors in Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 and 18:1-6. The discussion will be about God keeping promises. Did you keep your promises this week?

For Adults

The Seven Churches of Revelation: The History and the Message

led by Pastor Helen

Chapters 2-3 in Revelation are known as the letters or sermons to the seven churches (really it is more of a message: each church receives a couple of paragraphs). Pastor Helen will share some of what she learned while

traveling in the area about the geography and history of these towns and cities and how they profoundly impacted her understanding of these chapters of Revelation. The class will meet in Fellowship Hall through September 25th.

For Men

The Gentlemen of First Pres and their friends are invited to a "Morning Refresher" on Saturday, October 1 from 9 to noon at the church. John McClure is the presenter. Jonathan Drury will open the morning with some *Chi Gong* exercises to knock the cobwebs out, then coffee and food from Harvester's Bread Company! Charles Tuttle is our facilitator. The cost is \$20 for the food and materials costs. This will be a good morning and an opportunity for our men to be together! RSVP to the Church Office – 785-843-4171.

Men's Friday Morning Group – Join a group of men meeting on Friday mornings at 10:00 am. On September 16 they will be in the Fireside Room at FPC. Call Charles Tuttle for more information. 785-760-0747

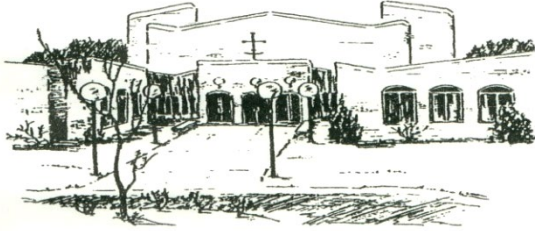
For Everyone

Prayer Squares Join Julie Simon on September 22 for another Prayer Squares opportunity following the Veggie Lunch at Ecumenical Campus Ministry, 1204 Oread Ave. Lunch begins at 11:30 or join the group around 12:30 for Prayer Squares! Everyone is welcome to join this time of prayer and meditation.

Seeking the Lost On Sunday, October 2, at 9:15 am Madison McKinney, FPC member and currently serving as the co-chair of the Advocacy Committee on Women and Gender Justice will report on her work with Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit People, a sub-committee of the Advocacy Committee. She was highly involved in presenting the committee's report at the most recent 225th General Assembly. In addition to her work with the General Assembly, Madison teaches preschool in Olathe. She comes from both the Dakota and Choctaw Indigenous nations.

In the Community

The City of Lawrence is seeking volunteer organizations to take part in supporting the Winter Emergency Shelter for the upcoming season. The City is once again providing the facility and some staff support for the shelter, but they will need active volunteers from the community to keep it operating on a nightly basis. To request more information email homelessprograms@lawrenceks.org



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Rev. Dr. Helen Hutchison, Pastor
Henry Johns, liturgist

September 18, 2022

David Pérez, organist.

Prelude

Abide with Me
DIANE BISH, arr.

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

Chancel Choir
Angela Loganbill, director

Call to Worship

One: A gift of a new day,

All: Unlived, untried, ready to be opened.

One: A new day with surprising miracles;

All: With love to be given,

One: Kindness to be shared

All: And peace to be enjoyed.

One: A gift of a new day,

All: God's gift to us.

One: Let us receive it with joy

All: And live it in expectation.

* **Opening Hymn**

Here In This Place (Gather Us In)
GATHER US IN

Glory to God #401

* **Call to Confession**

Henry Johns, liturgist

We cannot earn God's grace or favor. It comes to us, not as something owed, but as a gift freely given. Confident of God's love for us, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

* **Prayer of Confession** (unison)

Lord God, we wish we didn't but we do. We wish we couldn't but we can. Cheating and lying is not how we want to live, but there are times when we have behaved badly. Nobody saw us but you, and you know, so there's no point in fibbing. Maybe we planned it, maybe we did it on impulse, or out of selfishness, or seeking self-advancement, or maybe even out of revenge. In any case, we lied, or cheated, or lied and cheated, and we're sorry, sincerely and truly. We ask the strength of faith to truly forgive all who have cheated us or lied to us. (Silent prayer.) Amen.

* **The Blessing of the Water**

* **Assurance of Pardon**

One: God is always with and for us. God is always there to forgive us, comfort us, heal us, restore us, and guide us. Know now that God's love is being poured out upon us right now in this moment of time. Amen.

* **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* 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 Pastor Helen

Prayer of Illumination Henry Johns, liturgist
Holy One, how do we see for the first time a story we've read so many times? Give us new perspective. Help us not to assume we know all there is to know, but to open our hearts and minds to your Spirit and the new truth you may be teaching us today. Perhaps the truth will not be new, but a lesson we've heard and simply need to be reminded of again. Wherever it is you are leading, let us be willing to follow. Whatever it is you want to teach, let us be open to listening and obeying. Amen.

Hebrew Bible Reading Psalm 113 Henry Johns, liturgist

Special Music *Surely the Lord Is In This Place* Westminster Ringers
HERBERT COLVIN, MARY KAY PARRISH, arr. Carol Fleegeer, director
Chancel Choir Section Leaders Angela Loganbill, director
David Pérez, piano

New Testament Reading Luke 16:1-13

Sermon "Dishonest or Shrewd?" Pastor Helen Hutchison

Hymn *Walk with Me* **Sing the Faith #2242**
GLASER

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who 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, the power and the glory, forever. Amen

Call for Offering

Choral Anthem *With Music I Will Praise Thee* Chancel Choir
DAVID GIARDINIERE, arr. Angela Loganbill, director
David Pérez, piano

***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**
We bring our gifts with gratitude for the opportunity to give. We thank you, O Lord, for the bounty that is ours and for the freedom we have to worship as we choose. We are grateful for the endless choices that are ours to ponder and partake. We bring our gifts with hearts full of thanksgiving for all that is ours. We ask only that you would help us to remember. Amen.

* **Affirmation of Faith**
We believe in God, who loves us as a parent, searching for us when we are lost, embracing us in our hurt, always looking for any reason to throw a party.
We believe in the risen Christ, who gathers all the lost and forgotten into a new community and tells them and us we are all forgiven, blessed and loved.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who empowered the new community of followers to share bread, tell stories of God's love and turn the world upside down.

We are a faith-filled, Spirit-empowered, God-blessed community.

* **Closing Hymn**

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant
THE SERVANT SONG

Glory to God #727

Blessing and Charge

Postlude

Hymn to Joy
ALBERT L. TRAVIS

David Pérez, organist

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

Family Faith Focus

As Christians, we are taught to love all of God's people. We want our children to accept and engage with people of differing skin colors, religious backgrounds, and abilities. Yet, we too often raise our children around others who look just like us. In raising an anti-racist child, parents must be intentional in exposing their children to people and situations that differ from their own. It has been said that racism is like a "smog" that pervades everything and everyone. The "color blind" attitude is not considered to be a perspective based on any kind of research in child development. In fact, children between the ages of 3 – 6 months begin to look more closely at faces that look more like their caregivers. The National Museum of African American History and Culture at the Smithsonian in Washington, D. C. has created a website to help parents navigate guiding their children in becoming anti-racist. Literature is one way of fostering a positive sense of self among others who look differently than we do. Suggestions include:

[Two Eyes, A Nose and A Mouth](#) by Roberta Grobel Intrater, is for ages 3 months to 5 years. Young children are fascinated by faces. Between 3 and 6 months old, children recognize race and look longer at faces that share the same race of their caregivers. This age is a time to celebrate the diversity of humanity and create a healthy, positive emotional framework when discussing identity.

[Shades of People](#) by Shelly Rotner and Sheila M. Kelly for preschool ages.

[Grandpa, Is Everything Black Bad?](#) By Sandy Lynne Holman is for elementary ages. In our culture the word "black" is often associated with "bad", "evil", etc. White is often connected to "clean" and "pure". Caregivers need to have conversations with their children to counter messages of anti-blackness and anti-brownness. Skin color is just skin color just as eye color and hair color often differ from person to person.

[Enough! 20 Protesters Who Changed America](#) by Emily Easton is for upper elementary and middle schoolers. This book offers historic examples of people fighting for justice along with contemporary movements, all of which changed American life and brought justice to all people.

Genesis 1 *In the beginning God created all human beings in his own image....*

Micah 6:8 *Do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.*

Mission

Matthew 25

As a Matthew 25 church we are called to put *our faith into action*. The simple act of voting is one of the most powerful ways we can exercise our faith. On November 8th we will elect a US Senator and Representative to Congress; Governor/Lt Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, State Treasurer, Insurance Commissioner, State Board of Education members, Kansas House Representatives and county and city officials. We must also decide to whether to retain Kansas Supreme Court Justices, Appeals Course Judges and District Judges. And we will be asked to vote on 2 constitutional amendments that would transfer power from the executive branch to the state legislature.

In upcoming newsletters, we will post information to prepare our congregation to be informed on the issues and ready to vote on November 8th. We will use information from the League of Women Voters and other nonpartisan KS organizations concerned with voter education. For right now, **PAY ATTENTION TO THESE DATES**

Tuesday **October 18**

Deadline to register to vote. If you voted in the August 2 primary and have not changed your address since-you do NOT need to register again.

If you are **not registered or moved** to a new address after August 2, go to ks.votes to register today! You can also use this website to **request an advanced ballot.**

Wednesday, **October 19**

Advance voting by mail begins (20 days prior to Election Day).

Tuesday, **November 1**

Advance voting in person begins.

Saturday, **November 5**

Deadline to request an advance **ballot be mailed to you.**

Monday, **November 7**

Advance voting closes at 12:00pm noon.

Tuesday, **November 8**

GENERAL ELECTION (need a ride? FPC volunteers will be available to get you to and from your polling place)

Family Promise

We at FPC are joining with Connect Church to host five families in the Family Promise of Lawrence program for the week of September 25 - October 2. There will be five adults, ten children ages 3-14, and three children ages 0-3.

We will be providing frozen meals that serve four, sweet treats and salty treats, and money for grocery gift cards. I will be in the narthex at church to accept any of these items on Sunday, September 18 and Sunday, September 25. FPC has always been amazingly supportive of Family Promise, and I know you will continue in your commitment to these Family Promise guests.

Blessings and thank you!

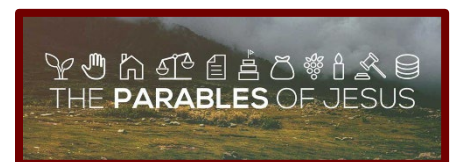
Lois Dutcher, coordinator

Educational Opportunity Coming in October!

Parables – Stories for Life in God’s World

This will be an 8-week Kerygma study beginning Sunday, October 9 at 9:15 am. Rod Nitz will lead the study of the timeless stories that speak to our faith and influence the decisions we make while discovering what makes a parable unique. Appreciate how Jesus used these seemingly simple stories to express the heart of the good news he brought. After an introduction we will study Parables of Growth, Parables of Reversal, Parables of Preparation, and Parables of Decision.

Register and order a book (\$10) with Linda Watts before September 19. lindajoywatts@gmail.com Books are required. Adult Education is underwriting the balance of the cost of the book.



Church at the Lake – Last Sunday



A beautiful day to have Church at the Lake with a meaningful remembrance of 9/11. Especially for those for whom 9/11 is a history lesson and not a part of their life story. So hard for many of us to imagine. Praise to the helpers on that day and on this one!