First Press

Weekly Newsletter

First Presbyterian Church

November 8, 2026

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!

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** 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 at FPC please talk with Pastor Helen.
Cards of Encouragement: Blue cards found in the pew rack ~ please put in offering plate and we will send them out in the mail.

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

- On November 8 we will meet to get an update about the Solar Panels at FPC.

- 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 –

- **Please keep our Youth Director Kelly Grube** and family in your prayers as she continues with Chemo.
- **Coming up next is our Fall BINGO Fest!** Everyone is welcome to this Youth hosted event on Sunday, November 8th for snacks – feel free to bring one – and Bingo! There are prizes in the closet for the lucky winners and fun to be had by everyone.
- **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.
- **Christmas Ornament Creation –** Join the EcoTeam on November 22nd after worship in Fellowship Hall to make some nature-based ornaments. All are welcome!

A Called Meeting of the Congregation will be held on Sunday, November 13 at the end of worship. The purpose of the meeting will be to receive a report from the Nominating Committee. Please plan to attend.

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 Montanists. Everyone is welcome.



Help us serve tacos at LINK!

We will be providing the meal at LINK on Saturday, November 7th.
You can help by bringing some of the ingredients, cooking the food, or serving to the guests that day.
If you are providing food please bring all items to the church kitchen on Friday, November 6 between 9 am and 3 pm or directly to LINK on November 7 by 11:30 am.
If you are volunteering to serve, please arrive by 11:30 am at LINK.

Worship for October and November **Every Gift Tells a Story**

This past year has been one with wars in the international setting, battles in our political spheres, and people struggling to keep up with expenses. As we move into October and November our sermon series will be focused on ordinary people doing extraordinary things. There are many examples in Scripture and many examples in our church and community. This is our Stewardship Theme reminding all of us that we make a difference. When I get discouraged I look to two quotes that inspire me:

- "It is not your duty to finish the work, but neither are you at liberty to neglect it," from Rabbi Tarfon (Pirkei Avot 2:16)
- "I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something; and because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do something that I can do." Helen Keller

As we seek to acknowledge there are amazing things happening in a crazy world, we acknowledge God is working and engaged, and we offer ourselves trusting that with God we make a difference.



The Deacon Love Fund has been working with you to meet the needs of some of our neighbors and friends in Lawrence. The calls continue to come in for a variety of needs. We are getting several calls from individuals asking for gas money. That is a request that we are not able to fill at this time, but the need is certainly real. Your gifts allowed assistance to nine families for rent and utility coverage. Thank you for your support of this fund. We are making a difference for families who are struggling to keep up with expenses. Please consider a gift to the Deacon Love Fund!





Solar Plug In – On October 25 the FPC EcoTeam as a part of LETUS (Lawrence Ecology Teams United for Sustainability), hosted a presentation about legalizing and popularizing small, portable solar systems that plug directly into standard wall outlets. Zack Pistora, Director, Kansas Sierra Chapter and Alice Bean, Distinguished Professor Emeritas, University of Kansas Department of Physics and Astronomy were presenters. If you missed this opportunity, please connect with members of our EcoTeam for more information!



Travis Campbell, director of the Haskell Cultural Center and Museum, shows FPC members the location of the medicine wheel as it appears in his google map image. Members toured the Center Tuesday as an ongoing project to learn more about Haskell and indigenous cultures.

Sanctuary Alliance of Lawrence is offering Community Solidarity and Defense Training on Sunday, November 8, from 3 to 5 pm. You will learn what to do if you see ICE in your neighborhood. Know your rights, and learn how to support our immigrant community. Training is open to all who register at: bit.ly/NovCommunityDefenseTraining

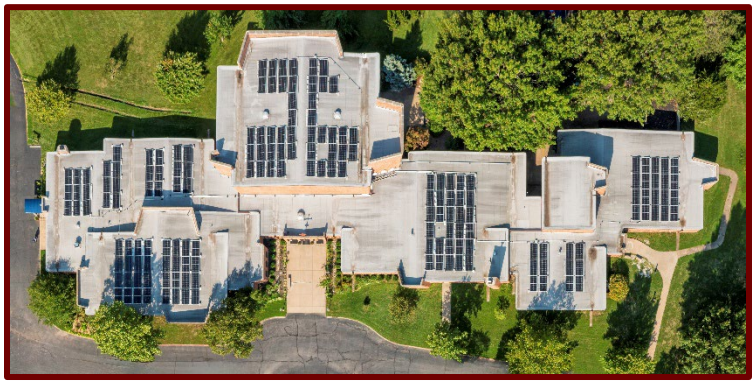
The Mitten Tree is up and waiting for your mittens, gloves, scarves, hats, socks, blankets, and all things for warmth! It is just beginning to feel like fall, but the winter cold will arrive sooner than later and some of our friends and neighbors will need warm things to help them manage the temperatures! You can help by decorating our tree with your warm gifts! Thank you!



Solar Panel Report
October

Monthly Yield = 8517.3 kWh
85.93 = Full load hours
151.4 = Tons of CO2 reduced
60.74 = Tons of Coal saved

We are doing our part!



The holidays are coming!
Save some dates as we plan ahead!
Christmas Dinner for everyone will be December 13th
Special Music Sunday will be on December 20th with Lessons and Carols.
Christmas Eve Worship will be December 24th at 7:00 pm



