



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Dr. Helen Hutchison, Pastor

Linda Maxey, liturgist

October 11, 2026

Prelude

Andrew Morris, 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 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.

Choral Introit

Jazz Introit
CRAIG CURRY

Chancel Choir
Dr. Adrian Hartsough, director
Andrew Morris, piano

Call To Worship

One: Just a taste of something wonderful,

All: Only a glimpse of something magnificent,

One: Just a glimmer of something holy in something so ordinary.

All: Yet, enough to know we are in the presence of God,

One: Enough to cause us to stop and stare in awe,

All: Enough to stir our hearts in wonder,

One: Enough to set our feet to dancing

All: And to prompt our voices to protest and praise.

* Hymn of Praise

Morning Has Broken
BUNESSAN

Glory to God #664

* 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

Gracious Spirit, give us the courage to look deep, to listen to the murmurs of the soul and to find the truths that bring life and hope. Forgive us for our hurry that bruises our inner wisdom and our worry that blocks your grace. Restore our inner sight that allows us to see your Presence in the common events of life, the ordinary experiences of living. O God, hear us. Loving God, heal us.

* 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

Mark 12:28-34

Linda Maxey, liturgist

Hebrew Bible Reading

Genesis 4:1-8

Sermon

*"Because the world is weary of war, we go with peace -
Able, Offering the best to God"*

Pastor Helen Hutchison

Hymn

*O Day of Peace
JERUSALEM*

***Glory to God* #373**

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.**

Minute for Mission

Selections from:

Raising Our Voices in Witness:

Adrian Hartsough

A Declaration of First Presbyterian Church of Lawrence, KS 2026

Therefore, we commit ourselves to the following:

To support the LGBTQ+ community as full members of society, with equal rights and freedoms.

To stand in solidarity with people of faith and no faith when they are threatened as we believe that everyone who does God's will is acceptable to God (Acts 10:34-35).

Consistent with those commitments, we speak out against the following actions:

Dismantling policies that promote diversity, equity, and inclusion in the public and private sectors. This includes the "whitewashing" of American history, and suppression of the contributions made by women and minorities to our country.

Rolling back civil rights protections for vulnerable, marginalized and under-represented communities including women, members of ethnic and racial minorities, and LGBTQ+ people.

Call to Offering

The Offering

Andrew Morris, organist

* Doxology	<i>Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow</i> <i>Praise God from whom all blessings flow</i> <i>Praise God all creatures here below</i> <i>Praise God above ye heav'nly host</i> <i>Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost</i>	Glory to God #606
* 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	<i>Dona Nobis Pacem</i> DONA NOBIS PACEM	Glory to God #752
* Charge and Benediction		
* Choral Benediction	<i>A Gaelic Blessing</i> JOHN RUTTER	Chancel Choir Dr. Adrian Hartsough, director Andrew Morris, organist
Postlude		

* 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

- Our families facing transitions and providing care to loved ones.
- Mary Newberg Gale, our former associate pastor, has received a cancer diagnosis. Prayers for her and her family as she begins chemotherapy.
- Kelly Grube is receiving a round of 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.
- Judy Wilson is healing from a dog bite and a skin graft to repair it.
- Kristi McAlister continues to receive cancer treatments. Kristi and Pat McAlister (her mother) are grateful for our continued prayers and support.
- 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.
- Susan and Pat - dealing with health concerns.

- 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.

Sunday Helpers

Ushers: We need volunteers!

Greeters: Chris Heider and Carol Smith

South Door Greeter: Marcia McPhail

Offering: Suzanne Galle and Paul Laird

Friendship Pad Collector: Petra Peterson

Bag Brigade Volunteer: Marilyn Heikes

Birthdays in the Congregation

October 12

Beverly Dolezal

Susan Kliever

October 14

Adam Rounds

October 15

Sandee Crowther

Pat Masten

October 15

Mac Boyd

October 16

Diana Schoneweis

Naima Nganga

October 18

Joan Kastner

Jayme Savage

Deacon Family Groups - 2026

A-B Dorothy Devlin

C-Di Lois Dutcher

Dj-F Sandy Groene

G-Ha Melinda Fischer

Hb-J Lucille Eggenberger

K-Le Linda Longino

Lf-Me Deborah Norwood

Mf-N Becky May

O-R Diana Schoneweis

S-Si Charles Tuttle

Sj-To Mary Parkinson

Tj-Z Nikki Barcomb

Calendar

October 11

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	Nominating Committee Meeting
11:30 am	Justice Matters House Meeting

October 12

1:15 pm	FPC Staff Meeting
2:00 pm	Pastor Helen's Class
3:00 pm	Finance Committee Meeting
6:00 pm	Westminster Ringers Rehearsal

October 13

9:00 am	First 5 Years Classes
1:00 pm	Small World Classes
6:00 pm	Kaw Valley Fiber Guild Meeting

6:30 pm

Session Meeting

October 14

9:00 am	First 5 Years Classes
6:00 pm	Boy Scout Troop 59 Meeting
7:00 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal

October 15

1:00 pm	Small World Classes
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October 16

10:00 am	Men's Group
1:30 pm	Parkinsons Board Meeting

October 18

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	Second Annual Chili Cook Off
11:30 am	Nominating Committee Meeting
6:30 pm	Youth Fall Festival

Children Sunday School

• Sunday School Classes for Children

○ Our October Study is called Honor God's Diversity

When you read the Bible closely, you can see that one of its amazing qualities is how its pages embrace a great diversity of voices. From one book to another—and even within a single book—the Bible is able to hold diverse genres, contexts, perspectives, and even theologies together. A beautiful example of this is at the very beginning of the Bible where we have, not one, but two creation stories back to back. Their mere presence testifies to a biblical valuing of diversity, and the content of these stories actually shows us some important principles about honoring God's diversity.

Just as the biblical text honors God's diversity in its many perspectives and in the balance that is struck between the broad and the specific, we are called to honor God's diversity in ways that balance broad inclusivity with specific foci. To truly honor God's diversity, the acknowledgment and praise of the diversity that we see in the Bible, creation, or our communities is one step. But it is not the end goal. Honoring diversity, as opposed to just seeing or having diversity, requires the difficult work of striving toward justice and equality. The following four central principles can guide us down a path of truly honoring God's diversity. We must:

- Affirm people who are marginalized
- Center voices from the margins
- Work for liberation while challenging oppression
- Use advantages to overturn inequality

Adult and Youth Sunday School

- Beginning Sunday, October 11, Jeff Southard will offer a class "Islam in a Nutshell". He will provide an overview of the basic beliefs of Islam which is helpful as we try to understand the current events unfolding in the Middle East. All are welcome to join him in the Fireside Room.

Youth Activities and Opportunities –

- **Our next collection – Shoes!** We have collected 81 pairs of shoes for donation to the HRC. We will continue collection through the end of October. Please bring any donations you have collected by 10/31.
- Cooler temps may signal we have made it to fall. In the spirit of cooler weather we are announcing a **FALL FEST on Sunday, October 18th**. We will gather at my place, 3113 Winston Drive at 6:30. We will have a bonfire, pumpkins to paint, apple cider and snacks. Please RSVP if you plan to attend so we will have enough supplies for pumpkin decorating. Bring a friend or two and join us for some relaxing, outdoor time. PLEASE BRING A CHAIR for relaxing around the fire pit, as you are able. We will also welcome donations of gently used shoes that we are collecting, in support of HRC.

Pastor Helen's Monday Class will gather together on October 5 to start a new class 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. We will start with Acts of the Apostles (look in the newsletter for readings).