



First Press

Worship and Wisdom

First Presbyterian Church

April 3, 2022

Our Guest Pastor

Rev. Thad Holcombe

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,W-Z	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
Jh-K	Charles Tuttle		

Prayer List

Cares, Concerns and Celebrations

- **Jeanne Buskirk** died March 29 at her home. Service plans are pending.
- **Alison Hill** is positive for COVID and asks for prayers. She is pretty sure baby Wally has it too.
- **Earl Huyser** is back at the Manor receiving rehab after a stroke. He is doing well.
- **Michael Devlin** is at LMH after a heart attack. His wife is Dorothy.
- **George Crump** is being treated for some health issues and is grateful for our prayers.
- **Stephen Locke**, son of Carl and Sammie Locke, still has double pneumonia. He is in Topeka.
- **Gerry and Marcia McPhail** ask for prayers as Gerry works to recover from a third stroke.
- **Paul Laird's brother** following his wife's death and coping with children and grief.
- **Kristi McAlister**, FPC member and daughter of Pat McAlister, who is facing some serious health challenges.

- For all who are dealing with COVID - Lord hear our prayers.

Birthdays in the Congregation

April 4	Laurel Krider	April 8 – con't	Gary Forister
April 8	Josephine Pringle	April 10	Cristin Chapin
	Kowen Pringle		

Calendar

April 3	8:45 am	Sunday Morning Child Care
	9:15 am	Sunday School Classes
	10:30 am	Worship – Rev. Thad Holcombe
	11:30 am	Youth Group
		EcoTeam Meeting
	2:00 pm	Easter Egg-stravaganza
	4:00 pm	Youth and Parents Meeting
April 4	6:00 pm	Westminster Ringers Rehearsal
		Wolf Den – Pack 3059
April 5	1:00 pm	Small World
	4:00 pm	Adult Education Committee
	6:00 pm	Lion Den – Pack 3059
April 6	4:30 pm	Finance Committee Meeting
	6:00 pm	Webelos – Pack 3059
	6:30 pm	Youth and Parents – Zoom option
	7:00pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
		Troop 59 Meeting
April 7	1:00 pm	Small World
	6:30 pm	Justice Matters Solutions Meeting
April 9	6:00 pm	EcoTeam Meeting
April 10	8:45 am	Sunday Morning Child Care
	9:15 am	Sunday School Classes
	10:30 am	Worship – Rev. David Dutcher
	11:30 am	Youth Group

Sunday Helpers

Ushers: Jim and Nancy Rumsey and Mark Shiflett
Greeters: Carol Smith
Securing the Offering: Peg Livingood & John Hughes
Mugger: Julie Simon
Youth Group Helper: Linda Longino

Flowers in the chancel today are sponsored by the Mission Committee of FPC. We are blessed to be a blessing.

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.

“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.” – Hebrews 13:2

Guests delight us. Our goal is simple: make all people feel welcomed, not overwhelmed. We were all visitors once and remember how it feels to try a new place of worship. Attend as often as you want. Visitors are welcome at all FPC events, classes, and small groups as well as in worship. We will always be glad to see you!

Session and Church policy

Mask reminder – The Session has been discussing the mask policy at almost every one of their meetings. They will meet again on April 12 and will look at the current policy and determine at that time if any changes need to be made. We ask for your patience and that you continue to wear your masks when you are at the church as we care for ourselves and each other. Thank you!

Name Tags

Are you wearing your name tag? We will be having a series of guest preachers and name tags will help them get to know us. In May Pastor Helen will need our help as well! We will learn her name pretty quickly – she has a steeper learning curve to learn all of our names! So, let's help her out. Thank you!

Pronoun stickers at the Welcome Center
if you want one for your name tag!

Education

This Sunday – Adult Classes begin at 9:15 am

- **Dr. Huyser's Old Testament Class** is NOT meeting while he is recovering his health. His past lectures and slides are available on [YouTube](#).
- **Roundtable / Seekers Class** - *“The Last Week: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus' Final Days in Jerusalem”*. The class will meet in Fellowship Hall (masks and distanced).

Education Offerings Coming Soon!

Parables – Stories for Life in God's World

This will be an 8-week Kerygma study beginning June 9 (a Thursday) at 7:00 pm. 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 May 15. lindajoywatts@gmail.com Books are required. Adult Education is underwriting the balance of the cost of the book.

Worship

Worship between Pastor Barry leaving and Pastor Helen's arrival – What happens now?

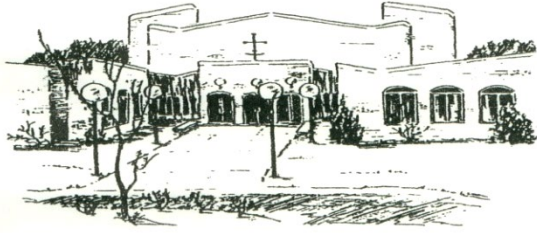
Pastor Barry has gathered a wonderful group of people to serve as our worship leaders during this time. Watch this newsletter to know who will be in the pulpit each week. We will also be looking for folks to help during this “in-between” time. Contact the church office to let us know which Sunday(s) you can help! 785-843-4171

Deacons

Love Fund – In the past month your offerings have assisted two individuals purchase phones and minutes so that they can locate housing and employment. You also helped to keep the power on in one person's home so they could have light and heat. The Deacon's Love fund is a gift that reaches out into the community to help those in need of a hand up. Thank you for your generosity to this fund – now and in the future.

Support

Nursery Workers needed! We are looking for some folks to help us in the nursery on Sunday mornings. This is a paid position, and we need three or four people who are interested in making a few dollars and spending some time with some really great children! Must be 18 or older and fully vaccinated for COVID-19. If you are interested or know someone who might want to help, contact the church office at 785-843-4171 or email Heather Soper at sopers1973@yahoo.com Thank you!



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Rev. Thad Holcombe, Guest Pastor
Linda Watts, liturgist

April 3, 2022

Prelude

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded
PAUL MANZ, arr.

David Pérez, organist

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

One: Come, all who are thirsty.

All: Come, all who are seeking.

One: Come, all who are waiting.

All: Come, all who labor.

One: Come, all who need rest.

All: Come, all who dream dreams.

One: Come, whether you are young or old, confident or curious, lonely or hopeful.

All: All are welcome here. Let us worship God.

Opening Hymn

Lift Every Voice and Sing
LIFT EVERY VOICE

Glory to God #339

Call to Confession

There is something so healing, so life-giving, about telling our stories. In the prayer of confession, that is what we get to do. The mask comes off. Any pretense of perfection is removed. We let the pressure to perform slip away and we sit here, face-to-face with the Mystery of God, sharing honestly who we long to be. There is healing and life to be gained. Please join me in this moment of honesty – in the prayer of confession.

Prayer of Confession

Forgiving God, often we treat our self-worth like something that can be bought at a store or online. Instead of trusting that we are loved and accepted exactly as we are, we stockpile our value in things, in wealth and power. Forgive us for creating our own measuring stick. Heal our open wounds and tell our hearts that we won't be forgotten if we slow down. We won't be forgotten if we rest and listen to ourselves and others.

Personal confession continues in silence

Assurance of Pardon

One: There is good news here. For even when we forget our self-worth or neglect to slow down and listen to ourselves and others, we can know that we are connected to all in the spring of this year, as the grass grows and the redbud blooms. We belong to God. Say it with me:

All: We are loved and accepted. We are claimed. We are under God's wings and kin to all of creation. We are worthy of grace. We belong to God. Amen.

Sharing the Peace

One: The Peace of the Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Children's Moment

Judy Wilson

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 40:27-31

Linda Watts, liturgist

Vocal Anthem

Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley
GORDON MYERS, arr.

Kevin Smith, soloist
David Pérez, piano

Scripture Reading

John 12:1-8

Sermon

“Communion: ‘Wet and Wild’”

Rev. Thad Holcombe

Choral Anthem

View from the Upper Room
CRAIG COURTNEY.

Chancel Choir
Angela Loganbill, director
David Pérez, piano

Call for Offering and Prayer of Dedication

One: In gratitude, let us dedicate our pledges, contributions, and commitment to be a participant in this faith community.

All: Amen.

Offering plates are located in the Narthex at the end of the “sign-in” tables.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord’s Table

Great Thanksgiving and “The Lord’s Prayer”

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Praise to you, O God, ...

...As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

***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 sustains our hope and comes 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 trials 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.***

Breaking of the Bread
Communion of the People
Prayer after Communion

Hymn

When the Poor Ones
EL CAMINO

Glory to God #762

Blessing and Charge

Remember

Joy Harjo

Postlude

All Glory, Laud, and Honor
PAUL MANZ, arr.

David Pérez, organist



Lenten / Easter Egg-stravaganza! Today, April 3, at 2:00 pm at FPC

Grab a friend, and join us for an afternoon of games, art, STEM activities and more from 2-4 p.m. Sunday, April 3, in the fellowship hall. Make a craft to share with our friends at the Presbyterian Manor, and go on an indoor Easter egg hunt, rain or shine.

Faith ∞ Family ∞ Focus

Upcoming Events

Egg-stravaganza is today! Join us in Fellowship Hall at 2:00 pm for great time!!

Sunday School Schedule

This week in Sunday School, meeting at 9:15 am, we will be talking about "Boldness". We need to be bold sometimes to stand up for what we believe and that can be hard. Jesus stood up for what he believed in the Temple! He wants us to know what we believe and then stand up for those beliefs. Read Luke 19:45-48 to see what Jesus did. See you in Sunday School!

Faith Practice of the Week

Giving - The third pillar of Lent is giving. God's commandment, love your neighbor as yourself can be followed literally by giving to your neighbor. Have your children help to make a cone shaped basket and fill it with flowers, cookies, or candies. In giving, it might be fun to leave the basket on a doorstep anonymously or sign your names as family members.

Injustices abound. Having your family participate in writing postcards can be a faith-based activity. Look at the website for Bread for the World, Offering of Letters and learn what legislative advocacy you might want to join. FPC is a covenant member of Bread for the World. Postcards can include a picture drawn by even your youngest family member. A brief written message is all that is needed to express your request. Democracy is in jeopardy so help your children become faithful citizens.

Family and Youth Ministry

**Please help us find the best person we can for this position of leadership
for our children and youth at FPC**

First Presbyterian Church is seeking a Christian Education Coordinator and Youth Director. Position requires personal faith development, solid interpersonal skills, Office 365 competency, familiarity with database applications, and ability to work a flexible 30 – 40 hour week including hours on Sunday.

Interested applicants should send resume and cover letter to: linda@firstpreslawrence.org by end of day, April 7, 2022. Applications will be processed as received. Job description available on request.

Attention Youth and Parents (Grades 6 – 12)!

We are planning an in-person meeting following the Easter Egg-stravaganza on Sunday, April 3, at 4:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. Please plan to attend this meeting to talk about the future of youth ministry at FPC.

We will also have a Zoom meeting on Wednesday, April 6, at 6:30 pm. We are hopeful that all families will be able to attend one of these meetings as we would like your input! Thank you.



Presbyterian Women are hosting a Silent Auction on April 30 from 1 to 4 pm and May 1 from 10 am to 1:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. There will be many fine items from which to choose, and the general public will also be invited to participate. This auction is in place of our usual Spring Rummage Sale.

We plan to donate a portion of our funds raised at this event to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance in support of the Ukrainian people. You may call Mary Kaye Chandler if you need more information, 620-271-4020.

Advocacy – Matthew 25

As a Matthew 25 congregation, we work to dismantle systemic racism by first understanding root causes of racism. Systemic racism refers to how beliefs of white superiority shape the way societies operate. This article from the Presbyterian General Assembly Moderators highlights how systemic racism influences people's lives in a way that you may have not considered.



CO-MODERATORS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Decolonizing environmental health

'People don't always realize the influence they can have'

Pam Wineman | Office of the General Assembly - March 14, 2022

"If we don't change the way we do things. . . generations to come are going to have no life or a very hard life. They . . . will be refugees from the planet," Catherine Coleman Flowers said during the **March broadcast of "Good Medicine,"** hosted by the Rev. Gregory Bentley and Ruling Elder Elona Street-Stewart, Co-Moderators of the 224th General Assembly (2020).

The discussion kicked off with an examination of the sad fact that situations like . . . contaminated drinking water in Flint, Michigan . . . have persisted for generations. These conditions are "baked" into a system that's built around slavery, colonization, exploitation, and extraction, said Flowers. Climate change is now compounding these problems. . . there are also many "who also just may not realize how it will impact them."

Flowers believes in enlisting the power of storytelling . . . She suggested several actions: march for voting rights, register to vote, write editorials for newspapers, . . . all things that can be done collectively to bring about changes. (Rev. Gregory) Bentley agreed that *"We need a cadre of people on the ground who are willing to push them to do the right thing."*

To see and hear the entire broadcast: <https://www.facebook.com/GAModerators/videos/4221471414621939>

Mission

One Great Hour of Sharing – OGHS is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together to work for a better world by advancing the causes of justice, resilience, and sustainability. Through OGHS we stabilize, we strengthen those who are weak, we connect. Each gift helps improve the lives of the suffering and the vulnerable through three life-saving programs: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program and Self-Development of People. Please give generously. If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!

Affordable Housing Panel Discussion – Monday, April 4 at 5:30 pm at the Lawrence Public Library. In partnership with Readers' Services and Read Across Lawrence, we will be discussing a major theme from this year's RAL book interior Chinatown: affordable housing. Hear from local leaders about what Lawrence is doing to address affordable housing and get the chance to ask questions! **Registration is required:** <https://lawrence.bibliocommons.com/events/621cd883c7a13228002be8e3>

Justice Matters - Attend the 2022 Solutions Briefing: April 7th at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary at FPC. Here, you will learn what each research committee will call for at the Action Assembly and learn what to do to make the Assembly a success. You will also receive tickets for yourself and to share with others!

Family Promise – FPC is hosting Family Promise of Lawrence with Connect Church April 3-10. There are seven families in the Rotation Model at present. Any monetary gifts that you, the members of FPC, can give will be very much appreciated by these families and the Family Promise Staff. There are many other families in other programs in need of our help also. Thank you to all of the FPC volunteers for the food items and gifts! See you in worship on Sunday, April 3rd. Lois Dutcher, FPC Family Promise Coordinator



Easter Lilies – Your donations will help us decorate for Easter Sunday. We have missed having them for a while, so sign up to purchase one in honor or memory of someone you love. Forms are on the tables in the Narthex.

Join us for worship on Maundy Thursday, April 14, at 7:00 pm. Rev. Paul Romine will lead us in worship and offer communion as was done by Jesus on that evening so long ago and yet so important to us today.