



First Press

Weekly Newsletter

First Presbyterian Church

August 17, 2025

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** firstpreslawrence@gmail.com 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 and Youth

• Sunday School Classes for Children begins this Sunday

- All children Pre-school through 5th Grade are invited to Room 14 at 9:15 am. We are starting a new curriculum which will start with "Care for Creation".

Care for Creation – There will be a variety of activities depending on the topic. There will also be a variety of leaders helping with the activities. Here is a preview:

August 17	Appreciate God's Creation	Linda Longino / Chris Heider
August 24	Care for Water	Chris Heider and you?
August 31	We will have a mission project	All teachers and volunteers
September 7	Grow and Till	Nikki Barcomb and Margie Dyck
September 14	Care for Animals	Joan Golden and Nancy Hodges
September 21	Fun Facts About the Sun	Mark Shiflett
	This is also the day we will celebrate our Solar Panels.	
September 28	Spiders and Snakes – oh my!	Hank G?

Youth and Adult Sunday School Classes

- **And the greatest of these is ... money? Join us in the Fireside Room beginning August 17** when Rev. Paul Romine will teach on **Income Inequality and the Bible**. He will lead us through the use of parables and actions and sayings of Jesus around money and riches. He will also help us reflect on what actions we might take to support working people today. Come join us!

Youth Activities

- **August 31 at 6:00 pm** We are making plans for the 2025-26 school year. Share with us some of the activities you would like to see happen. Brainstorming and dinner!
- **September 14** Mission project – We will assemble gift baskets for Family Promise
- **September 28** We will join the EcoTeam on an EcoTrek!
- **October 4** Help us serve a meal at LINK
- **October 12** The Church is having a Chili Cook off! We hope the Youth will contribute a batch of chili to be judged and maybe win!
- **October 26** Game Night! Save the date!

Pastor Helen completes her Summer Sermon Series on August 17

“The Baggage We Carry: What we need to let go of and what we need to keep”.

It is about letting go of what holds us back and stepping into the life we were made for. Jesus didn't come to add more weight to our shoulders. Jesus came to lighten the load and to make sure we were carrying the right things! What are you carrying?

This Sunday – August 17 – “Take Up Trust in God”

Next Sunday – A Hymn Sing!

A New Sermon Series – Earth Care

Pastor Helen is coordinating with the children's curriculum “Care for Creation” so we can all learn and talk about what it means to care for the earth and all of the gifts it provides to us.

September 7	The Patterns of Creation
September 14	Water
September 21	Vegetation
September 28	Animals and Humans

Pastor Helen's Monday Class is starting a new study on the non-canonical (or sometimes called gnostic) Gospels. We will start **Monday, August 18th with the Gospel of Mary** (you can pick up a copy in the Narthex). The class meets on Monday afternoon at 2 pm in the Fireside Room. Everyone is welcome to join the class anytime!

Summer Choir – are you in? This is your last chance to sing in the Summer Choir! We will meet at 9:30 am in the Sanctuary on the following dates to rehearse a piece to sing that day in the service. There is no required dress – come as you are - **August 17**



A Celebration! You are invited! The Choir, Bells and FPC Staff are hosting a reception to celebrate the wedding of Adrian Hartsough and Justin Harbaugh. The entire congregation is invited to join in the celebration in Fellowship Hall at 11:30 am on Sunday, August 24th.

Come hear about their adventures of a wedding, purchasing a new house, celebrating and preparing for a new job – for Adrian (he isn't leaving us though!) and probably more!

August 24 will be a Hymn Sing for Worship! Let us make a joyful noise all morning! Pastor Helen wants to know what you want to sing. Tell us about the hymn that always makes you feel good. Or the one filled with memories. How about the one you liked to sing when you were in the Youth Choir? Put your requests on the Friendship Pad on Sunday morning, email her at helen@firstpreslawrence.org or call the church office 785-843-4171. If we only have one request it might be a really short worship service! If we have 50 requests, we will get to do this another time!



Family Promise is preparing for their big fund raiser of the year a part of which is a Silent Auction. FPC has provided baskets of gift cards in the past and would like to do the same this year. If you are able and would like to help fill some fantastic gift card baskets; please send me (Lois Dutcher) either a gift card with amount or send me money and I will purchase gift cards. You can also see me at worship on Sunday mornings! Thank you so much for helping provide for this important ministry of FPC. Thank you in advance for your very generous gifts. Blessings, Lois Dutcher.

Family Promise also invites you to their 17th Annual Dale Willey Memorial Golf Tournament and Auction Party! The Auction Party will be on Sunday, September 14th at Maceli's (1031 New Hampshire St.) Cocktails begin at 5:00 pm. Tickets are \$50 per person. If you are interested in the game of golf, consider signing up for the Golf Tournament on Monday, September 15th at the Lawrence Country Club. Sign up as an Individual Golfer for \$225 or gather a Team of 4 for \$900. Registration and more information can be found at www.lawrencefamilypromise.org.

Our Cub Scouts Need a Leader! We are learning that after several years of leadership our current Cub Scout Pack Leader is stepping down. His boys have all moved up through the program and he is ready to turn over the position. So far none of the current parents have stepped up to take his place. If we don't find a leader we will no longer have Cub Scouts and it is concerning that at some point after that we could lose our Troop 59 as well. If you – or someone you know – does not need to be an FPC member, are interested in more information, please contact Jim Rumsey at rumseylaw@sunflower.com. Thank you!

A Solar Dedication and Celebration – Save the date for the dedication of our solar panels on Sunday, September 21. We will gather after worship to dedicate our solar panels. Fellowship Committee will provide snack foods, and we will also tour the playground. Come to see how it all works!

We might have the coolest playground in town! The children will arrive on Monday and will let us know what they think. In the meantime, here it is on Tuesday, August 12th. What do you think? We will dedicate the playground on September 21st with an opportunity to tour the toys!



The base for the area for our smallest friends is "curing" and will be ready for the equipment to be placed for a wonderful and safe playground when school starts next week.

This is the spongy ground that is softer and safer for our 1- and 2-year-olds.



The Rummage Sale this week is over the top!

Sale is Friday 8 am to 4 pm and Saturday 8 am to noon

It is spilling out the doors!



And into the Fireside Room!

