



First Press

Worship and Wisdom

First Presbyterian Church

January 22, 2023

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

Care

Deacon Family Groups - 2023

A-Bra	Grace Nganga	Mc-Mz	Nancy Rumsey
Bro-C	Janet Adams	N-Q	Sandy Groene
D-E	Diana Schoneweis	R-Sc	Linda Longino
F-Go	Jeanine Tiemann	Se-So	Russ Heikes
Gr-Hi	Larry Schlosser	St-T	Allen MacFarlane
Ho-K	Charles Tuttle	U-Z	Peggy Southard
L-Ma	Linda Upstill		

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.

Please be sure to sign the Friendship Pad if you are worshipping with us in person. If you join us on-line, live, or recorded - **please send us an email letting us know you joined us in worship.**

Covid-19 and Flu Season

Just a reminder that during this flu, covid, RSV, and cold season we need to remember to take care of ourselves and others. If you have been exposed to any of these viruses, you might consider wearing a mask when you are at church. The health department says that if you have been exposed to covid but are not testing positive or having symptoms you still need to wear a mask for at least 5 days. If you test positive for covid, you need to stay home for 5 days and then wear a mask for another 5 days when out in the community. Thank you!

Prayer List

Cares, Concerns and Celebrations

- **Bev Dolezal** is hospitalized at LMH and receiving therapy to help with her fractured vertebra. She is in a lot of pain. She asks for prayers for strength and perseverance.
- **Eva Alley** had shoulder replacement surgery January 18 at LMH. Prayers for a speedy rehab and recovery.
- **Ray Glass fell at home** and broke his hip. He is now back at home. Please continue prayers for healing. His family continues to deal with a variety of challenges in addition to this situation and appreciate our prayers and support.
- **Arlois McLay** fell and broke her hip. She is now receiving rehab at home.
- **Judy Hutchison, Helen's Mom**, had hip surgery and is now receiving rehab at home.
- **Bill Wallace, father of Nora Wallace**, has been moved to a nursing home where he can receive rehab. He is weak, but working and is glad for our prayers.
- **Lisa Wallace, sister of Nora Wallace**, is suffering from severe long COVID complications and appreciates our prayers. **Prayers for all of the Wallace / Lushington family** as they navigate illnesses and other challenges.
- **George Crump** continues to have increasing health issues. Please keep both him and Karen in your prayers.
- **Ellie Rose Calton**, great-granddaughter of Jan Poulson had surgery December 15.
- **Jean Givens** is home following a couple of surgeries and is experiencing some pain and welcomes our prayers for healing.
- **Kristi McAlister**, FPC member and daughter of Pat McAlister, who is facing some serious health challenges.
- **Phil and Sharon Rankin** appreciate our continued prayers.

Birthdays in the Congregation

January 23

Thomas Hill

January 27

Chris Chapin

Alexander Bracciano

January 24
Ken Blair
John Bradley
January 26
LaVonne Nauman
Kerstin Roberts

January 27
Hadley Resseguie
January 29
Jim Eggenberger

Calendar

January 22

9:00 am Nursery Open
9:15 am Sunday School Classes
9:15 am Earth Care Forum
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am EcoTeam / Property Meeting
2:30 pm Alison Gruber Voice Lesson

January 23

9:00 am First 5 Years Classes all week
1:00 pm Staff Meeting
4:30 pm Alison Gruber Voice Lessons
6:00 pm Cub Scout Den – Schwaller
6:00 pm Westminster Ringers Rehearsal
7:00 pm First 5 Years Board Meeting

January 24

1:00 pm Small World Classes
4:00 pm Welcome Committee Meeting
6:00 pm Worship Committee Meeting

January 25

7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 59
7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

January 26

1:00 pm Small World Classes

January 27

10:00 am Men's Group

January 29 – Kansas Day!

9:00 am Nursery Open
9:15 am Sunday School Classes
9:15 am Earth Care Forum
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Welcome Committee Meet and Greet
2:30 pm Alison Gruber Voice Lesson
3:30 pm League of Women Voters Meeting

Sunday Helpers

Ushers: Jan Poulsen, Cherie and Marin Hoover

Greeters: Heather Soper

Offering: Henry Johns and Paul Laird

Friendship Pad Collector: Petra Peterson

Mugger: Margie Dyck

Session

Committee Leadership for 2023

First Presbyterian Church depends on all of us to provide programs, services, classes, and more for our members and friends and the community at large. This work is done primarily by committees and their members. Our committees need you to help in a variety of ways to support, create, and expand our ministries. The following is a list of the committees and

the Elders who are serving on them. Please choose one that you can offer to help or find out more and contact that Elder. Thank you!

Worship Committee – Paul Laird and Mark Shiflett
Music, Technology, Ushers and Greeters, and Flowers

Mission Committee – Melinda Roblee Fischer and Jeff Southard

EcoTeam, Matthew 25, Justice Matters, Family Promise, Habitat for Humanity, and the Boy Scouts Troop 59

Welcome Committee – Jan Roth and Eric Fischer
Communications, Outreach, Church Growth, and our Muggers

Fellowship – Ed Manda

Fellowship on Sunday mornings, Fellowship Events, and Presbyterian Women

Christian Education – Heather Soper, Linda Watts, Peg Livingood, Melinda Roblee Fischer, and Henry Johns

Family Ministry, Adult Ministry, Youth Ministry, and the First 5 Years Board

Support Committees – Jeff Southard, Jan Roth, Linda Watts, Jim Rumsey, and Mark Shiflett

Finance (Stewardship, Budget, Endowment, and Planned Giving), Gifts and Memorials, Personnel, and Property.

Congregational Nominating Committee

Heather Soper and Ed Manda

Property Committee

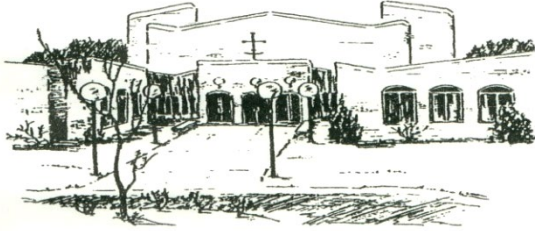
A change has been made to our access to the building. We need to let you know that the keypad on the door to the south entrance no longer works. Our new access security allows the door to be locked and unlocked electronically. This will be done according to events scheduled on the church calendar.

This makes it vitally important that you schedule your meetings and events on the church calendar. This assures that the south door will be open when you need it to be. Typically, the door will unlock 15 to 30 minutes prior to an event and lock at the time the event concludes. If you need a deviation from this, please note that when you make your reservation.

For access outside of scheduled events we are using a FOB or PIN number system.

PLEASE NOTE that any codes you may have from the old system no longer work on either keypad.

If you have a need to be in the building at times other than for events or meetings, please contact Linda Bridges at 785-843-4171. Thank you.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Third Sunday After Epiphany

Rev. Dr. Helen Hutchison, pastor
Mark Shiflett, liturgist

January 22, 2023

Prelude

Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart
AARON DAVID MILLER

David Pérez, organist

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.

Introit

Chancel Choir
Angela Loganbill, director and David Pérez, piano

Call to Worship

One: God reveals Godself not to the person who is self-sufficient or self-righteous,

All: But to the one whose mind is open, whose will is receptive, and whose soul is humble.

One: In that spirit, let us come in worship before the Lord.

* **Hymn of Praise**

When Morning Gilds the Skies
LAUDES DOMINI

Glory to God #667

* **Call to Confession**

Mark Shiflett, liturgist

One: As we come to this place of prayer, let us come with open minds, willing to honestly confront our shortcomings and with open hearts ready to receive God's forgiveness. Let us pray together.

* **Prayer of Confession (unison)**

Mark Shiflett, liturgist

Lord of the just and the unjust, we confess that your ways puzzle us and your commands are difficult. It is not easy to bless those who insult us and to pray for those who abuse us. You summon us to love the ungrateful and the selfish just as we love those who are kind and generous. This too is a hard demand. In your mercy, God, forgive us. For we have cursed those who have cursed us; we have heaped scorn on the selfish, rather than love. Deliver us from bitterness. Rescue us from resignation. And lift us from despair to hope and trust in your mercy and justice.

* **Silent Prayers of Confession**

* **Pouring the Water**

* **Declaration of Forgiveness**

Mark Shiflett, liturgist

One: "Mercy and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other ...

Righteousness shall go before you, and peace shall be a pathway for your feet." Praise God! In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and freed to live anew!

All: Thanks be to God.

* **Passing the Peace**

Mark Shiflett, 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* 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 Paul Laird

Prayer of Illumination Mark Shiflett, liturgist
Holy God wake us if we are asleep, calm the storm if we are overwhelmed, or hold us fast if we are running—whatever it takes, open our hearts and minds to hear your voice as you speak a new and life changing word to us. Amen

Hebrew Bible Reading Leviticus 24:13-23 Mark Shiflett, liturgist

Anthem *Peal con Brio* Westminster Ringers
KAREN THOMPSON Carol Fleeger, director

New Testament Reading Matthew 5:38-42

Sermon *“Blessed Are the Meek,
for They Will Inherit the Earth”* Pastor Helen Hutchison

Hymn *Blest Are They* (vs. 1, 2, 3) **Glory to God #172**
BLEST ARE THEY

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer
**Our Father, which 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, and the power, and the glory forever...
Amen.**

Offering

Vocal Anthem *The Trumpet Shall Sound* Chancel Choir
From Messiah, G.F. HANDEL Dmitry Tyschek, soloist
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**

* **Affirmation of Faith**

We believe that the word Jesus spoke in the sermon on the Mount still speaks to us today. We believe that the poor in spirit are blessed, for when our spirits seem empty, the Holy Spirit becomes our spirit. We believe that those who mourn are blessed, for even when we have no joy, the joy of finding the tomb empty becomes our joy. We believe that the meek are blessed, for even when we have no courage, the courage of facing the cross becomes our courage.

We believe that those who hunger and thirst for righteousness are blessed, for when there is no justice, the justice we uphold becomes our own justice. We believe that the merciful are blessed, for when the world is full of suffering, the mercy we show others becomes the mercy shown to us. We

believe that the pure in heart and the peacemakers are blessed, for even in death, the incarnation of God becomes their transcendence, the mortality of Christ becomes their immortality and the humanity of Spirit becomes their divinity.

We thank God for each and every blessing. Amen

* Closing Hymn

For the Faithful Who Have Answered
OMNI DIE

Sing the Faith #2186
(See below)

Blessing and Charge

Postlude

O Lord, We Praise You
BENJAMIN CULLI

David Pérez, organist

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

For the Faithful Who Have Answered 2186

1. For the faith-ful who have an-swered when they heard your
2. Man - y eyes have glimpsed the prom-ise, man - y hearts have
3. For this cloud of faith - ful wit - ness, for the com - mon

call to serve, for the man - y ways you led them, test - ing
yearned to see. Man - y ears have heard you call - ing us to
life we share, for the work of peace and jus - tice, for the

will and stretch-ing nerve, for their work and for their wit - ness
great-er lib - er - ty. Some have fall - en in the strug - gle,
gos - pel that we bear, for the vis - ion that our home-land

as they strove a - gainst the odds, for their cour - age and
oth - ers still are fight-ing on. You are not a - shamed
is your love—deep, high, and broad— for the dif - ferent roads

o - be - dience we give thanks and praise, O God.
to own us. We give thanks and praise, O God.
we trav - el we give thanks and praise, O God.

Education for all ages!

For Children

This Sunday we will be learning about Jesus' baptism. Come and learn about just one of the amazing things that God can do with us! Friends are always welcome to join you in Sunday School!

For Adults

Earth Care Forum

This annual offering from our EcoTeam focuses on a variety of topics dealing with our ecosystems; how we can help them and help ourselves. This Sunday Sidney Plantz, Master Gardener, KU Graduate in Cellular Biology and retired from the Kansas Bureau of Investigation will present, "All About Bees" We will discuss plants for

bees, pollination, types of bees, nesting, pests, bee products and how to become a beekeeper.

For Men

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

Souper Bowl of Caring – The Youth at FPC and the 54s are asking the members of FPC to support their efforts to collect canned goods for the Souper Bowl of Caring. We don't know who is going to play in the Super Bowl yet this year (Go Chiefs!), but we do know that there are folks who are in need of food to be a winner in the game of life. Young people need good nutrition to do well in school. Help our Youth help others get the good nutrition they need by bringing canned goods and other non-perishable items to the football field in the Narthex. Thank you!

Summer Camp! Believe it or not it is not too early to be thinking about Summer Camp at Heartland Center in Parkville, MO. And the Presbytery of Northern Kansas has a deal for you. Any child who attends Sunday School in a church of the Presbytery (FPC is one!) will be given a scholarship equal to one third the registration fee for any one session of camp this summer. Go here to register for camp! <https://www.heartlandcamps.org/>

Adult Ministry Opportunities

Julie Simon, LMT (Licensed Massage Therapist), is offering an opportunity for us to learn from a pro about how to give a back rub! Or a hand massage or a head rub. We all enjoy getting a massage, whether it is from a professional, a friend or a family member, but perhaps we could learn a couple of things about how to make the experience even better for both the giver and the receiver! Join Julie in the Library on Sunday, February 12th from 4 to 6 pm to share some food, fun, and fellowship, and gain a couple of massage tips. Individuals are welcome or BYOF (Bring Your Own Friend!) Call the church at 785-843-4171 to make a reservation!

Mission

Matthew 25 – Join us in Putting Faith into Action - The Kansas Legislature is back in session. This term the Republicans have openly stated the intention to use their supermajority to pass legislation that would restrict or remove the basic rights of our fellow Kansans including the youngest members of our congregation. The Republican list of priorities for 2023 includes efforts to restrict abortion, LGBTQ and transgender rights, Medicaid expansion, voting rights, and weaken public education.

As a Matthew 25 congregation, we put Christ's teachings into action by **staying informed** on the issues and **actively advocating** for those being unfairly targeted and denied their basic rights. Many of the people we advocate for sit next to us in Church and Sunday school, serve on our committees, contribute to the offering, share their talents, and lead us in prayer. They are integral and important members of our church and need our assistance.

To stay informed on issues: check out these resources

[Kansas Appleseed](#)

Follow the Kansas Inter Faith Alliance (KIFA) on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/kansasinterfaithaction/>

Listen to a taped presentation by Rabi Moti Rieber, Executive Director of KIFA on

[KIFA's Legislative Priorities for the 2023 Session](#)

To Advocate for others: Consider participating with Matt 25 committee members in an event that will broaden FPC's legislative advocacy to protect democracy in Kansas. We will be joining KIFA members on Monday, February 6 to participate in the KIFA Legislative Advocacy Day at the Kansas State House. As newbies at this, we will be shadowing experienced KIFA participants to learn how to do this kind of advocacy.. It's a new skill and a bit uncomfortable, but directly lobbying our legislators is the most effective way to influence what bills are introduced into the legislature and how they are voted on. We want to be as effective as opposing faith-based groups in making our voices heard. We will be carpooling. Contact Linda Watts (lindajoywatts@gmail.com) or Mary Warren-(themarywarren@gmail.com) if you are interested in joining us. Working folks will need to take the morning off.

Check these links for more information on KIFA.

<https://kansasinterfaithaction.org>

<https://kansasinterfaithaction.org/updates/KIFA-2023-legislative-priorities>

<https://kansasinterfaithaction.org/events/kifa-2023-advocacy-days>

Justice Matters is hosting a Community Meeting on the Douglas County Jail Report. Monday, January 30, 5:30 to 7:00 pm at the Lawrence Public Library Auditorium. The Vera Institute of Justice has published an extremely thorough report that shed light on the disturbing trends in the use of our jail, including high rates of bookings for low-lever offences, stark racial disparities, and criminalization of poverty. The Justice Matters' Jail Alternative Committee is planning this meeting to discuss the report's findings and to determine what is next. Check their website www.justicemattersinkansas.org to read the report.



Coming Up for Lent

Pastor Helen and the Session are full of energy for the Lenten Season and are offering a variety of opportunities for us to participate in this important part of the life of the church and the discipleship of Jesus Christ. We hope that you will pick one of these – or three! Please feel free to bring a friend to any or all of these worship and learning opportunities.

Ash Wednesday, February 22, is the beginning of the season of Lent. Pastor Helen is offering a time of prayer and contemplation in the Chapel. There will be stations for prayer and activities to help you prepare for the Lenten Season. You are welcome to come and spend as much time in the prayer space as you wish. The chapel and prayers spaces will be open 12:30 to 2:00 pm and 6:30 to 8:00 pm. Pastor Helen will be there to assist with the prayer stations and for the imposition of ashes. Come to one or both!

Lenten Studies

The Gospel According to Jesus' Enemies – Pastor Helen will host this class offered at two different weekday times during Lent. The Scriptures tell us of many different people and groups who are involved in condemning Jesus to the cross including: Caiaphas, Pilot, Herod, Judas, the Centurion, the Guard, the Soldiers and the Crowd. It is easy to just say they were misguided or bad people. We hope by taking time to look at those people and groups and see what we might understand about their motivations that we might be able to learn from them.

RSVP requested.

Meeting Thursdays, February 23 – March 30 at 11:00 am or
Mondays, February 27 through April 3 at 5:00 pm

Sunday Morning Classes – Adult Ministry as decided to offer two classes on Sunday mornings starting on February 12. As we continue to recover from the pandemic, the committee has heard the expressed need to offer two styles of learning: lecture/discussion format and the participant led book or curriculum led class. The two classes during Lent are listed below.

Meeting Jesus at the Table - The Gospels are full of stories of Jesus sharing meals with disciples, friends, even tax collectors and Pharisees. Whether multiplying bread to feed a whole crowd, relaxing with his inner circle, or telling curious elites stories about even greater banquets, Jesus imparts wisdom as he shares the wine and grants forgiveness as he distributes the fish. This study provides biblical insights along with thought-provoking queries regarding our own time, such as whom should we invite to Sunday dinner and who is left out and left behind in our culture today. Books will be available for purchase but are not necessary to join the class. Contact the church office to purchase a book for \$12. **Meeting Sundays at 9:15 beginning February 12.**

So, You Want to Learn More About the Reformation – In the year 1510, the church in western Europe was the same as it had been for centuries, led by the pope in Rome. By the year 1530, the pope's authority was widely rejected, and a movement involving many leaders in many places collectively known as the Reformation was underway. In a four-week class beginning on **February 12**, we will discuss why the Reformation came about, who the leaders of the movement were, what they wanted to change about the Catholic Church, and what denominations grew out of a process that lasted many decades, including our own Presbyterian Church. Jeff Southard will lead the discussion in **Fellowship Hall at 9:15 am beginning February 12.**

Wednesday Worship

Bread for the Journey – In response to requests for alternate worship times, Pastor Helen is offering a worship service on Wednesday evenings during Lent. She will offer worship and a light meal in Fellowship Hall. Each week there will be a different bread for communion, for our meal and to guide our worship experience. The meal begins with the bread of life and ends with the cup of salvation. RSVP's are requested, but come anyway – we will make it work!

Meeting in Fellowship Hall at 6pm on Wednesdays beginning March 1.



All Church Game Night

February 26, 2023

Dinner will be provided

Hosted by our FPC Youth and the 54s

*Put this on your calendar! Don't miss an evening of fun,
games, and fellowship!*